

HALIFAX metro®



Man acquitted after impaired drive to E.R.

Judge accepts rarely-plausible 'defence of necessity' **PAGE 6**

Russian ballet star gets 6 years for acid attack

Case highlights backstage bickering at the Bolshoi **PAGE 13**

Maple Leafs their own worst enemy

Series of penalties keep Toronto from mounting offence against the Sharks **PAGE 28**

HOW LOVE WAS GOOD FOR BUSINESS, ACTUALLY

ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY, METRO LOOKS AT THE STARS TO EMERGE FROM ICONIC HOLIDAY FILM **PAGE 19**

PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT

A towing crew works to remove a tractor trailer that was stuck turning into Bayers Lake from the St. Margaret's Bay Road on Tuesday morning. Police say the truck had its back wheels stuck when making the sharp turn onto Lakeland Boulevard after being cut off by another driver. No one was injured.

JEFF HARPER/METRO



Revised regional plan taking shape

Emphasis on consultation. Council debates review of 'master plan for land use' for hours



RUTH DAVENPORT
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Halifax regional councillors have worked their way through about half of 29 recommended

changes to the regional plan, and will return to the committee of the whole next week to address the remainder.

The recommendations came from the city's community design and advisory committee (CDAC) after an extensive review of the five-year-old regional plan.

Although city staff described 18 of the 29 amendments as unnecessary in light of existing policies, councillors disagreed with that assessment several times during the four-

hour long discussion.

"Everybody's really trying to work hard to get this to be the very best thing ... but it's good because there's a lot of questions," said Coun. Jennifer Watts.

Councillors approved the immediate adoption of two changes — one to apply the "complete communities" policy throughout HRM and not only in urban areas; and another to consult, rather than merely inform, the public on the entire Road Network Func-

tional Plan.

"It's not about information sharing anymore," said Watts. "It's about having the long-term consultation that I don't think has actually happened in this municipality, and that needs to happen."

Councillors also approved the insertion of a statement on the supply of serviced land in HRM, and asked for more detail on points such as increasing the riparian buffer in residential developments.

"I support (CDAC's) recom-

Quoted

"This is like the constitution of land in HRM, it's that kind of deal."

Coun Wayne Mason

mendation that it should be 30 metres ... it aligns with provincial policy," said Coun. Linda Mosher, who asked for further investigation.

Mason said key councillors and the public understand the

regional plan isn't meant to be a "strategic document."

"This is the master plan for land use," he said, after a cheerful but spirited exchange with Coun. David Hendsbee about the possibility of taking over provincial industrial parks and the relevance to the regional plan. "This is how we zone stuff, it's not about what we buy or what we obtain."

Staff will report back to regional council in January with a refined version of the plan.

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Vote absolves residents of hefty storm-sewer charges

Motion passes 15-2.
Council accepts latest funding formula after several failed attempts



RUTH DAVENPORT
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Cow Bay Road residents are no longer facing big bills to pay for a deep storm sewer.

Halifax regional council approved a new funding formula for the project Tuesday, after Coun. Bill Karsten argued the project will only affect a small



Coun. Bill Karsten METRO

number of the 100 residents who would be charged.

"About 75 people are not affected," he said. "In fact, their area ... isn't even the area that would be upgraded, so they would still be left with a ditch,

having to pay \$5,000."

A funding formula approved in February split the cost of the project between residents, HRM and the Halifax Regional Water Commission.

However, Cow Bay residents rejected the \$4.4-million project when the estimated costs climbed to \$14,000 per property.

Karsten asked city staffers to revisit the plan, saying residents shouldn't have to pay for a problem not of their making.

However, he rejected the proposal for resident contributions of up to \$5,000 and replaced it with one that eliminated the resident share alto-

Dissent

"There's nothing here to justify zero per cent. It indeed goes against objective analysis."

Coun. Reg Rankin

gether.

The motion received strong support, particularly from councillors whose constituents are also plagued by recurring flooding.

"Stormwater management is now more pervasive than fires, and yet we put fire hydrants and we supply fire departments," said Coun. Steve Craig.

Coun. Reg Rankin opposed the new formula, noting warnings that it could cost the municipality up to \$1.65 million a year for stormwater projects and delay the ability to fund such projects.

"Let us be very clear about this. This will make a precedent," he said. "All other projects in HRM will be looking for exactly the same thing."



Welding, working, building, boozing

A welder applies his trade on the retrofit of the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation building on Agricola Street on Tuesday afternoon. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

SmartTrip E-Pass. Employee transit program goes permanent in HRM

Halifax regional council approved a recommendation from its transportation standing committee to make the SmartTrip E-Pass transit program permanent, following a successful pilot project.

The motion also included a clause that will allow the municipality to offer the program to all HRM employees.

"I think it will be well-received and I think the community would understand that we as employers would participate and lead by example," said Coun. Reg Rankin.

The program essentially allows employees of participating organizations to get

Total passes

460

More than 460 passes were sold to four participating employers during the pilot project in 2013.

12 months' worth of transit passes for the cost of nine months. Employers pay an annual fee to HRM and get the passes at a discounted rate, and must further subsidize the cost of the passes.

The employee pays for the pass through payroll deductions and is eligible for a federal transit-tax credit.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

1 NEWS



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Amber Kirwan. Jury summons issued for first-degree murder trial

An unusually large number of jury summons have gone out for an upcoming first-degree murder trial in Pictou Supreme Court.

Prothonotary Doris Scanlan said 400 Pictou County residents will be receiving jury summons this week for the upcoming trial of Christopher Alexander Falconer. Falconer is accused of kidnapping and first-degree murder of Amber Kirwan.

Jury selection will take place Jan. 6 with potential jurors being asked to be at the Pictou Justice Centre at 9:15 a.m.

Scanlan said usually between 250 and 275 people are pooled for jury selection for Supreme Court trials, but this time a larger number of potential jurors was required to ensure a jury could be selected.

The trial is expected to last a month.

People who have been summoned, but don't appear for jury selection could



Chris Falconer NEW GLASGOW NEWS

be fined up to \$1,000.

Kirwan was reported missing on Oct. 9.

She had been out the night before with friends at Dooley's in New Glasgow and was supposed to meet her boyfriend Mason Campbell at a nearby convenience store.

Following an intense investigation and search that involved multiple agencies and members of the public, police discovered Kirwan's remains on Nov. 5 in a wooded lot in Heathbell.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Latest case. Man injured in crosswalk accident

Another pedestrian in HRM has been struck by a vehicle in a crosswalk.

The latest incident happened just before 11 p.m. Monday when a 24-year-old man walking in the crosswalk at the intersection of Bedford Highway and Larry Uteck Boulevard was hit by a vehicle driven by a 58-year-old woman who was turning left on a green light.

The victim was taken to

Two in one day

- On Monday at 6 a.m., a woman suffered non-life-threatening injuries after being hit by a car in a marked crosswalk on Robie Street.

hospital with a leg injury.

No charges are being laid as police say it was foggy and dark at the time. METRO



Workers at the Halifax Shipyard walked off the job last Thursday. The union president said daily talks are continuing with the company but the mood between both sides is "hard to read." HALEY RYAN/METRO

Mood at the Halifax Shipyard 'hard to read'

Update. Union president says daily talks continuing after last week's walkout



HALEY RYAN
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Nearly a week after about 200 Irving Shipbuilding workers walked off the job to protest alleged intimidation and harassment by management, the union president said daily talks are continuing with the company but the mood between both sides is "hard to read."

Cliff Pickrem, president of Local 1 of the Canadian Auto Workers-Marine Workers Fed-

eration, said things are "back to normal" with employees all at their jobs.

"The workplace is calm and quiet," Pickrem said Tuesday.

Workers protested along Barrington Street last Thursday when they learned their co-worker Pete MacKenzie had taken his own life following what they described as months of bullying by management.

"He was singled out and harassed," said a shipyard worker who worked with MacKenzie for 25 years but preferred not to be named.

MacKenzie had received a 30-day suspension due to what management described as issues to do with the safety inspections on his scaffolding.

RCMP say they received

Quoted

"I just hope that it'll bring a better cooperation to the table."

Cliff Pickrem on Thursday's protest

a suicide call for a home in Eastern Passage last Wednesday afternoon and found a 58-year-old man dead.

Pickrem said every complaint of harassment that comes forward is looked into.

Irving employees have complained the company has become much harsher in the past year and a half since winning the national shipbuilding contract.

On Friday, Irving Shipbuilding president Kevin McCoy said bullying was not

a factor in MacKenzie's death.

"We take very seriously any complaints of harassment," McCoy said. "No aspect of our investigation around Mr. MacKenzie involved bullying."

Pickrem preferred not to comment on McCoy's statement because of the "complicated and emotional side of what took place."

Union members "seem to be accepting" of the ongoing talks, Pickrem said, but the atmosphere between management and employees remains unclear.

"It's very, very hard to read because people say things in the heat of moment," said Pickrem. "Until every thing gets thrashed out, we won't know exactly where we're at here."

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Maritime Link

Conditions in place for federal loan guarantee

The Nova Scotia government has signed the indemnity agreement that will allow the federal loan guarantee to go ahead for the Maritime Link portion of the Muskrat Falls hydro-

electric project.

Energy Minister Andrew Younger says the agreement protects the federal government from financial risk as a result of actions taken by the province.

Younger says the loan guarantee will help reduce the borrowing costs of building the \$1.5-billion subsea link between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Andrew Younger JEFF HARPER/METRO

Transparency

Information on government loans to be made public online

Information on Nova Scotia government loans to businesses would be posted online as of April 1 under legislation introduced Tuesday by

the province's economic development minister.

The measure is part of legislation intended to tighten rules and increase transparency on public loans to the private sector.

Economic Development Minister Michel Samson says the legislation would require the government to post details of all agreements

from jobs and strategic investment funds as well as report twice a year on progress on job targets and timelines.

Samson says the legislation, which also applies to Nova Scotia Business Inc., would apply to all deals signed after the Liberal government took power on Oct. 22.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. premier: Appointment 'a great choice'

Glennie Langille.

Critics deride as patronage choice of Liberal candidate who finished third in October election



Glennie Langille NEW GLASGOW NEWS

The appointment of a defeated Liberal candidate as Nova Scotia's chief of protocol smacks of patronage, the province's opposition parties said Tuesday, a charge Premier Stephen McNeil said is unfounded.

McNeil said he chose Glennie Langille, a former journalist and Liberal party communications director, to take on the job ahead of other people whose names were brought forward because she is well qualified for the position.

"I believe she is a great choice," McNeil said, adding she will be on a year-to-year contract.

"But to assure all Nova Scotians she is on a contract basis, she is not going into the civil service. That contract can be

renewed or not renewed by any government going into the future."

The Opposition Progressive Conservatives and the NDP slammed the appointment.

"It is a disgraceful flip-flop for a government that said they would be different to make such a blatant political payback to a former candidate so quickly after the election," said Tory Leader Jamie Baillie.

Acting NDP Leader Maureen MacDonald was also scathing.

"It stinks to high heaven," said MacDonald.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



United Church supporters protest Israeli settlements

Members and supporters of the United Church Working Group for a Just Peace for Palestine and Israel wave signs on the corner of Robie Street and Coburg Road. The United Church of Canada launched a national campaign Tuesday to boycott products, like SodaStream, made in what they say are illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine territory. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Xavier University

Over 900 students given X-Rings in special ceremony

An exclusive ceremony was held Tuesday at St. Francis Xavier University.

More than 900 students received their class ring, better known as

the X-Ring.

This was a special, student-only event — family and friends could watch the event via a video link or online at the university's website.

The university says the X-Ring is the third most-recognizable ring in the world, behind the Super Bowl ring and the Papal ring.

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Man acquitted of impaired driving for hospital run

Injured friend.
Judge says best decision made under circumstances

A Nova Scotia judge has accepted the defence of necessity in acquitting a man of impaired driving after he drove his concussed and bleeding friend to hospital following a night of drinking.

"This should not be taken as condoning impaired driving," wrote Judge Paul Scovil in his decision, released Monday. "Nor should the public think that the defence of necessity is an easy one to make out. Rare is the case that such evidence would be accepted, but this is such a case."

The 12-page decision said Roger Pleau was impaired when he drove his injured friend, Eldon Deegan, to hospital in Upper Nappan on Oct. 4, 2012.

The two men had been drinking beer when Deegan

left his apartment to smoke a cigarette outside and fell down some stairs, cutting his head on an iron hand-rail. Both men were locked out of the building without a key and neither had a cell-phone. The building also did not have a buzzer to alert any other tenants.

Scovil said Deegan was incoherent and having trouble breathing when Pleau "panicked" and drove his friend to hospital, where a nurse noticed he was intoxicated and called police.

In acquitting Pleau, Scovil said the accused was forthright and credible in his testimony, and truly believed his friend was going to die.

"His inability to call 911, the panic of being locked out of the apartment building with someone in obvious medical distress would lead the accused to take the action that he did," he wrote in his decision.

Scovil also said Pleau did not believe he had time to find a reasonable alternative

Defence of necessity

"Were Mr. Deegan to suffer irreparable harm as a result of delay in obtaining medical attention, it would surely outweigh the harm brought on in this case of the impaired driving."

Judge Paul Scovil

to driving, given his friend's serious injuries.

"Given the time pressures of the situation and his lack of medical background to assess the situation, Mr. Pleau would have felt he had no other legal alternative other than to transport his friend to the hospital," he wrote.

Finally, Scovil said he had to consider the proportionality between the harm inflicted in the case and the harm avoided.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caught in the act

2 men charged after homeowner reports B&E

Two Halifax men are facing charges after a break and enter in Hammonds Plains on Tuesday.

Around 9:50 a.m., RCMP responded to a residence on Lake Mist Drive when the homeowner called to report a break and enter in progress.

"To his dismay he found a car running in his driveway and a TV set sticking out of the back," said RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae.

MacRae said the suspects ran away, but RCMP and Halifax Regional Police officers contained the area and found both men within an hour.

He said the incident "hits home" the importance of neighbours contacting police when they see suspicious activity.

Two men, aged 18 and 22, face charges. **METRO**

Investigation. Cape Breton man charged with distributing child porn



Cape Breton Regional Police CAPE BRETON POST

A Cape Breton man is facing child pornography charges after police searched a home in Reserve Mines.

According to Cape Breton Regional Police Service, 48-year-old Gary Dyer of Reserve Mines has been charged with possessing, accessing and distributing child pornography.

The charges stem from a joint investigation with the Toronto Police Service.

Dyer was arrested on Monday, after regional police collected evidence during a warranted search on a home in Reserve Mines.

Dyer made a brief appearance in Sydney provincial court on Tuesday and has since been released on conditions.

Among his conditions, Dyer is to appear back in provincial court on Jan. 7.

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A ticket loser, but still a \$50M lotto winner

Just imagine. Regular lotto player Kathryn Jones is 'still in shock' after being told she won Lotto Max a year after losing winning ticket

A Hamilton, Ont., woman who lost her winning

\$50-million lottery ticket last year is on the verge of getting her prize after an extensive investigation.

The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation says Kathryn Jones bought a ticket in Cambridge, Ont., last year which turned out to have the winning numbers from the Nov. 30, 2012, Lotto Max draw.

OLG received some 435

Unique case

"I'm very grateful."

Lotto Max winner Kathryn Jones, on the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation investigation that secured her a \$50-million jackpot.

inquiries since that draw and in the process of reviewing them, it deter-

mined Jones had the winning ticket.

When Jones wasn't able to find her ticket, OLG carried out a "Lost Ticket Prize Claim" process to ensure she was the rightful winner.

It included using their database to verify her purchase, and checking surveillance video and credit card statements.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



OLG CEO Rod Phillips, centre, and Mike Hamel, head of investigations, announce Kathryn Jones as winner of \$50 million. OLG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Plugged up. Handy wipes still being flushed, much to sewer lobby's chagrin

The pleas of Canadian wastewater officials to federal and provincial politicians for a crackdown on so-called flushable wipes are falling on deaf ears.

It's a municipal problem, so the refrain goes, and so the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association is joining forces with its American counterpart, the Water Environment Federation, to take aim at the popular towelettes.

The wipes — billed as a cleaner alternative to toilet paper that's perfectly OK to

Hold on — don't flush!

Municipalities and officials have two objectives — a federal flushability standard and a widespread public-education campaign.

flush down the toilet — are giving many municipalities fits as they grapple with clogs.

Canadian municipalities say the wipes are costing ratepayers as much as \$250 million a year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A mass of wipes that are supposed to be "flushable" held aloft by Barry Orr. They were clogging sewage pumps in London. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Trek to the South Pole for Walking With The Wounded

Team U.S. trudges through the snow on Day 1 of the Virgin Money South Pole Allied Challenge 2013 expedition. They are on a 321-kilometre charity trek to the South Pole alongside wounded servicemen and women. Team U.S. is one of three teams competing in the trek to raise money for the military charity called Walking With The Wounded. They are expected to reach the pole in mid-December having endured temperatures as low as minus 45C and 50 m.p.h. winds. VICTORIA NICHOLSON/WWTW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Reform Act gets thumbs-up

Bill to give MPs more power. Grits and NDP say they would support Conservative MP's bill

A Conservative MP's provocative new bill to rebalance power between MPs and party leaders has gotten an early thumbs-up from the NDP and the Liberals.

With a number of Michael Chong's Tory colleagues already supportive, the measure could have serious legislative legs.

Among other things, the bill would give party caucuses the explicit right to review and oust their leaders.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau tweeted Tuesday that he shared the goals of Chong's proposed Reform Act of 2013.

NDP reform critic Craig Scott said he will personally support the bill and MPs in his party will be allowed a free vote on the legislation.

He said his leader, Tom Mulcair, "wants a system that's fair, where prime ministers actually don't have the kinds of levers

of power that have been abused under Stephen Harper and have been used in ways that frankly aren't all that justified by previous prime ministers."

Chong is a moderate, popular Ontario MP with a long history of promoting stronger responsible government.

Conservative supporters included Alberta MP James Rajotte, Ontario MPs Larry Miller and Stella Ambler and Ontario Sen. Hugh Segal.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May and Independent

MP Bruce Hyer rounded out the cheering section.

"It depends on whether Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Mulcair will allow their caucuses to vote for democracy," May said of the bill's prospects.

A Conservative source estimated that up to a quarter of the caucus could back Chong's proposals.

Chong argues that these rights have always existed by convention, but have not been exercised for decades.

The legislation would not come into effect until after the 2015 election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

How it works

Reform Act's nuts & bolts

The bill has three components. It would give party caucuses in the Commons the right to vote to review the party leader and to trigger a leadership race.

As well, the bill would entrench in the Parliament of Canada Act the right of a caucus to review, eject and readmit MPs.

They would also have the right to elect and eject their caucus chair.

The third part of the bill would give electoral district associations the power to approve electoral candidates. Nomination papers would no longer require a leader's signature.

These measures would theoretically embolden MPs to vote as they want in the Commons, without fear of being turfed from caucus.

Canadian teens' test scores in math, science take a nosedive: Study

A new international study ranks Canadian students among the top of the class in key subject areas, but there has been a noticeable decline over the years in math and science scores among the country's pupils.

Canada was among 65 countries and economies participating in the assessment by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which takes place every three years. Findings of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment from 2012 were released Tuesday.

The average estimated score in math was 494. Canada had 518. Shanghai, China topped the list in math with

an average of 613. Canada was also outperformed by Singapore, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Macau, Japan, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Canada had an average score of 523 in reading and 525 in science — well above the OECD averages of 496 and 501, respectively.

Shanghai topped the list in both reading and science with 570 and 580, respectively. Canada was outperformed in both subjects by Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Korea.

Along gender lines, boys continued to outperform girls in math across most participating countries — including Canada — while girls placed ahead of boys in Canada and

Measuring up

Canada was among the high-level achievers, however:

- Performance in math has declined, with a 14-point dip in the past nine years.
- Decline in science performance since 2006 was "statistically significant."

internationally in reading. The performance was similar among boys and girls in science.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Funeral for teens killed in tragic crash

Pallbearers carry a casket at the funeral on Tuesday for four teenagers killed in a highway crash, in Cap-Pelé, N.B. Justin Leger, Sebastien Leger, Justin Brown and Luc Arsenault died when their car crashed into a culvert and rolled several times in nearby Notre-Dame early Saturday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miraculous save

Dramatic rescue from sunken boat goes viral

A video from last May, in which divers looking for bodies in a sunken ship find a Nigerian cook who had been trapped alive for three days, is now on YouTube.

Harrison Odjegba Okene, who was in an air bubble in the sunken boat, survived off just one bottle of Coke, all he had to sustain him during the trauma. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't ask, he won't tell

Marion Barry mum on Ford

Don't you dare compare the former crack-smoking mayor of the U.S. capital to Rob Ford, the crack-smoking current mayor of Toronto.

Marion Barry doesn't appreciate it. In fact, he becomes quite irate when asked about Ford.

"I'm not talking about that," Barry said, walking away from a Canadian reporter Tuesday during a break at a D.C. council meeting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Corruption

Fifth arrest in SNC-Lavalin case

The RCMP announced another arrest in connection with their probe into Canadian engineering giant SNC-Lavalin and a bridge contract in Bangladesh.

The RCMP said Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan, who holds both Bangladeshi and Canadian citizenship, has been charged with one count under the Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act.

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Sen. Roméo Dallaire's car rests on a traffic barrier after he crashed it on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday. JENNIFER DITCHBURN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senator haunted by past crashes car

Asleep at the wheel. Retired general says reliving Rwandan genocide has left him unable to sleep

Sen. Roméo Dallaire nodded off at the wheel of his black BMW and crashed into a traffic barrier on Parliament Hill on Tuesday.

The retired general said the news last week of three suicides of Canadian soldiers, coupled with the coming 20th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, have left him unable to sleep,

even with medication.

"Every day I am reliving the 20th anniversary and reviewing that period of command," he said in an apology to the Senate. He says he didn't realize how tired he was.

"I simply ran out of steam and fell asleep and crashed my car," he said.

"I am very thankful that nobody was injured or worse by my not being more attentive to the level of fatigue that I have been experiencing."

Dallaire commanded the ill-fated United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda in central Africa in 1993-94.

He was an up-and-coming

artillery general when he was tabbed to lead a UN force to oversee a shaky truce in the troubled country.

It seemed a natural assignment. He was a French-speaking soldier going to an area of Africa where French was the second language. Canada carried no colonial baggage to inflame local sensitivities.

But the world collapsed on Dallaire and his small force within months of their arrival. The UN ignored his warnings of coming strife.

After it broke out, major international players rebuffed his pleas for more soldiers, leaving him standing as a helpless

observer to genocide.

Dallaire came home to medals and promotion, but his spirit was broken and he spiralled into depression and alcohol. At one point he was found passed out in a public park.

But a decade later, after much psychological help, support from his wife and children and a book into which he poured his tormented soul, Dallaire bounced back.

Shake Hands With the Devil, his pain-filled, graphic memoir of the genocide, won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction in 2004. He was named to the Senate by Paul Martin in 2005. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

PTSD. Soldier suicide attempts raising alarms among advocates

Veterans' advocates and soldiers are warning that the number of attempted suicides among the ranks of Canada's military is growing at an alarming rate.

The wife of a soldier who tried to end his life last month says psychological injuries as a result of Afghanistan are an epidemic among members of the Canadian Forces and the care is not what it should be.

Master Cpl. Kristian Wolowidnyk, a former combat engineer who served in Kandahar in 2009-10, became despondent when told he would be medically discharged because of his

post-traumatic stress disorder.

Wolowidnyk's wife Michele says her husband had only seen a social worker every two weeks, and had not been under a psychiatrist's care since last summer.

He tried to kill himself two days after learning of his impending discharge, but survived after being rushed to hospital in Edmonton where he met with other veterans of the Afghanistan mission.

His story is coming to light just days after three members of the military took their own lives in a single week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Warming woes

Abrupt, random climate change a concern: Panel

A panel of scientists advising the U.S. government says the world needs to worry more about hard-to-predict sudden changes from global warming than it does about the bigger but more gradual impacts.

The National Academy of Sciences looked at warming problems that can occur in years instead of centuries. The panel said Tuesday that melting ice in the Arctic Ocean and mass species extinction are already here and worse than predicted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harsh toke

Boss embarrassed for pot-smoking Mountie

The RCMP commissioner says he's embarrassed for a New Brunswick Mountie who breached policy by smoking medicinal marijuana in uniform.

Bob Paulson says it was awkward and disappointing to see Cpl. Ron Francis make headlines after the national police force discouraged him from going public. Francis returned his red serge and accused the force of not doing enough to support RCMP members with post-traumatic stress disorder. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Acid attack lands Russian ballet star in jail for six years

Bolshoi. Attack on ballet's director exposes vicious backstage bickering and intrigue at renowned theatre

A judge pronounced Bolshoi soloist Pavel Dmitrichenko guilty of making plans to attack Sergei Filin, the theatre's director who lost most of the sight in one eye and 20 per cent in the other in the attack on Jan. 17.

Ex-convict Yuri Zarutsky, who splashed the acid in Filin's face, was sentenced to 10 years; a driver, Andrei Lipatov, got four years. The three were also ordered to pay 3.5 million rubles (about \$112,000) in damages to Filin.



Dancer Pavel Dmitrichenko stands inside a barred enclosure at court in Moscow on Tuesday. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The dancer said during the trial that he had agreed to Zarutsky's offer to beat up Filin, but claimed that he had been

unaware of his intention to use acid for the attack. He pleaded not guilty but admitted "moral responsibility."

Dmitrichenko said he was shocked when he heard about the acid attack in the news and told Zarutsky they should surrender to the police. He testified that Zarutsky told him to keep silent and threatened to launch a similar attack on Dmitrichenko's ballerina girlfriend if he went to the police.

He said he had told Zarutsky that he disapproved of Filin's management style. He insisted that he always said Filin had been an excellent dancer, but he blamed him in part for the negative atmosphere in the theatre. He cited several incidents in which troupe members were driven to tears during heated conflicts with Filin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Thai government tries to defuse violent protests

A Thai policeman offers a rose to protesters outside city police headquarters in Bangkok on Tuesday. Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra ordered police to stop battling anti-government protesters in what has become a struggle to topple Yingluck and keep her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, from returning to power.

MANISH SWARUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

New software detects banned neo-Nazi music

German police say they have developed software that can automatically identify banned neo-Nazi music.

Certain extremist music is banned from public sale or performance in Germany, but the far-right still regularly attempts to skirt the regulations with concerts to attract and recruit young people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles

First traffic citation given to Google Glass user

A woman has pleaded not guilty to a traffic citation usually given to drivers who may be distracted by a video screen. The officer alleges the motorist was using Google's computer-in-an-eyeglass, Google Glass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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REUTERS/Erk De Castro

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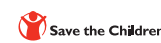
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Yeah, I'm going to need you to stay home on Saturday

Promoting productivity. Bosses are forcing staff to put down the TPS reports and smartphones in a bid to fight burnout

Volkswagen turns off some employees' email 30 minutes after their shifts end. Goldman Sachs is urging junior staff to take weekends off. BMW is planning new rules that will keep workers from being contacted after hours.

This surge in corporate beneficence isn't an indication that employers are becoming kinder and gentler: It's about the bottom line. After years in which the ease of instant communication via email and smartphones allowed bosses to place greater and greater demands on white-collar workers, some companies are beginning to set limits, recognizing that successful employees must be able to escape from work.

"Industry is now responding," said Cary Cooper, a professor of organizational psychology and health at Lancaster University, who says the imperative to be constantly reachable by iPhone or tablet is taking a toll on the work delivered at the office. "Employees are turning up, but they're not delivering anything."

After seeing colleagues lose their jobs during the Great Recession, workers are more inclined to come in to work, even when sick, surveys show. After hours, physical presence is replaced by the next best thing — a virtual one. Many employees fear switching off, instead



Shirin Majid, left, watches as her husband plays with their baby at home. Majid works for a startup, which has "blackout" weeks for workers when they are forbidden to work. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

deciding to work on vacation, during dinner and in bed with the help of smartphones, laptops and tablet computers.

People also have more data than ever to process — whether they ask for it or not. Information overload cost American businesses just under \$1 trillion US in employee time lost to needless emails and other distractions in 2010, according to Jonathan Spira, chief analyst of the New York research firm Basex. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A quirky solution

To get everyone, from intern to CEO, to not overdo it with the work hours, some companies have resorted to bolder measures.

- Quirky, a New York based start-up that shepherds inventions to the marketplace, has instituted a "blackout" week once a quarter during which no one except customer-service representa-

tives is allowed to work, lest employees be tempted to check email.

- And having the message come right from the top was important for Shirin Majid, the company's 39-year-old head of digital marketing, who laments not having enough time to spend with her husband and 9 month-old daughter, Ella.

Shock in Saskatchewan

Potash Corp. to slash 18% of staff

There was shock Tuesday in a small town east of Saskatoon after Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan cut hundreds of jobs at a mill.

The Saskatoon-based company is slashing its workforce by about 18 per cent, affecting 1,045 people. The biggest job cuts will be in Saskatchewan, where 440 people will lose their jobs, and most of those will be at the company's Lanigan division, where one of two mills will suspend produc-

tion by the end of the year.

"These layoffs were effective immediately. People were sent home this morning," said Rick Suchy, an electrician at the Lanigan mine and president of Union for local 922.

"This was the end of their shift. Some guys were supposed to come back tonight. They won't be coming back tonight. Some guys were phoned at home. They weren't there. And many people were coming in for the day shift and they were sent home.

"It was a really shocking experience."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

War of the words. It's selfie versus science in battle for ultimate word of the year

Look alive, selfie. There's another word of the year that's not all about you.

While Oxford University Press, the British publisher of the Oxford dictionaries, declared those little smartphone self-portraits its winner last month, the folks at Merriam-Webster announced "science" on Tuesday.

Oxford tracked a huge jump in overall usage of selfie, but Merriam-Webster stuck primarily to look-ups on its website, recording a 176 per cent increase for science when compared with last year.

John Morse, president and publisher of Merriam-Webster Inc., said science



Merriam-Webster picked a word for the nerds, while Oxford's appeals to the popular set. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

is connected to broad cultural oppositions — science versus faith, for instance — along with the power of observation and intuition, reason and ideology, evidence and tradition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Science is always lurking

"The more we thought about it, the righter it seemed in that it does lurk behind a lot of big stories that we as a society are grappling with, whether it's climate change or environmental regulation or what's in our textbooks."

John Morse, president and publisher of Merriam-Webster Inc., based in Springfield, Mass.

Motor City stalled

Detroit eligible for bankruptcy: Judge

Detroit is eligible to shed billions in debt in the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history, a judge said Tuesday in a long-awaited decision.

Judge Steven Rhodes turned down objections from unions, pension funds and retirees, which, like other creditors, could lose under any plan to solve \$18 billion US in long-term liabilities. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market Minute

DOLLAR
93.91¢ (-0.07¢)

TSX
13,319.87 (-99.70)

OIL
\$96.04 US (+\$2.22)

GOLD
\$1,220.80 (-\$1.10)

Natural gas: \$3.98 US (no change)
Dow Jones: 15,914.62 (-94.15)

TOP SIX @ 6
Weeknights at 6 KB counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

- 6 Britney Spears Work Work
- 5 Hedley Anything
- 4 Rihanna What Now
- 3 Lady Gaga ft R. Kelly Do What U Want
- 2 Eminem ft Rihanna The Monster
- 1 Pitbull ft Ke\$ha Timber

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Obamacare. University of Notre Dame sues over birth-control mandate

The University of Notre Dame is suing the Obama administration over a federal mandate that its health-insurance plans for students and employees cover birth control.

The university filed its lawsuit Tuesday. It claims the mandate violates Notre Dame's freedom to practise religion without government interference.

The birth-control mandate is part of President Bar-

ack Obama's controversial health-care law. The Roman Catholic university says it violates the church's teaching prohibiting contraception.

The Obama administration promotes the law's provision of a range of preventive care, free of charge, as a key benefit of the health-care overhaul. Contraception is included in the package of cost-free benefits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELLO DRONES, RIP PIZZA-MAN PORN

Amazon Czar Jeff Bezos, overstimulated perhaps by Cyber Monday, has come with what is either the best — or the worst — idea ever.

The man who sells everything everywhere to everyone proposes to use flying mini-drones to deliver packages to customers within 30 minutes, wherever they are.

Still in the virtual stage, it will be years before the bot turns up at your door seeking your signature, but we need to get ready.

I mean, there are questions to be answered.

Do you tip a drone? Seeing as they're not working their way through drone school or supporting a family of dronelets, it probably won't be necessary. But you want to make sure. Just ask the Taliban what happens when there's an angry drone at the door.

Will drones still leave those illegible notes behind? You



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

know the ones scolding you for not being there at the drone's convenience and advising you to pick up your package at (can you read this?) at (is that between 9 and 5 or 5 and 9?)

Or, because they are programmed to hunt down your DNA, will they find you wherever you are even if you don't want to be found? Even if you really want the new 50 Shades of Grey Concordance, maybe you don't want it right now. On the toilet.

The delivery drone can be adapted for other uses. Pizza, for instance. The drone is the perfect technology to get it to your door within 30 minutes or you eat for free. Of course, you'll never eat for free, as the drone

can be programmed to get there in precisely 29.99 minutes every time. I'm not sure why they'd want to do that, but that's what happens now and it seems to work for the pizza

delivery companies.

Added note: For some reason, the pizza-delivery man occupies a special place in the annals of pornography. This would be the end of that. Tough to make out with the pizza man if he turns up sporting eight whirling rotors, like the Amazon prototype. There could be flying pepperoni ... at least.

That's hardly the most sinister adaptation of delivery drone technology. These things are essentially CCTV cameras with wings. If they can send one into space (like the Hubble telescope) to track down galaxies 14 billion light years away, they can find you at the neighbourhood pub.

Or delivering your neighbour's pizza.

You see, the more you think about this, the more you realize there are bugs that have to be ironed out. Bezos hopes to get his little bots airborne as early as 2015, but I suspect it will be a sunny day in Seattle before it happens.

Er, be right back. There's someone ... or something ... at the door.

ZOOM

Freaks of nature



Bizarre animals revealed in book

They may not have the "Aw" factor of, say, pandas or sea otters, but these unique animals still deserve our attention.

A cynipid wasp and a sea slug called a nudibranch feature in *Animal Earth*, a new book that celebrates the weird and wonderful diversity on our planet. **METRO**

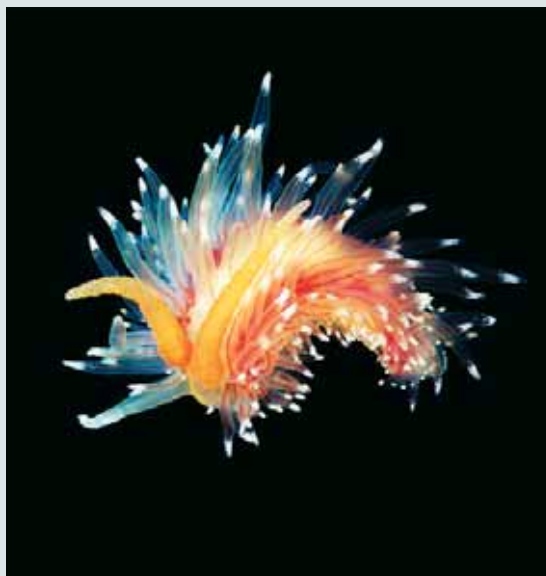
By the numbers

200M

The number of species of animals that are still undiscovered, according to zoologist and author of *Animal Earth*, Ross Piper. "We know a great deal more about the surfaces of barren moons in space than we do about our own planet. There are so many fascinating animals around us, and we haven't gotten to grips even the tiniest bit with how they live," he said.

More numbers

- **Unknown world.** 86 per cent of all species on land and 91 per cent of those in the seas have yet to be discovered, described and catalogued, according to a 2011 study.
- **Drop in the ocean.** Due to the abundance of life on our planet, the IUCN Red List — the most sophisticated ongoing project of studying threatened animals — monitors less than one per cent of the world's species.



TOMAS RAK, ALEXANDER SEMENOV/ANIMAL EARTH/THAMES & HUDSON

Photog says:

"Sea slugs possess every colour and shape combination imaginable — they are one of the most vibrant groups in the sea."

Alexander Semenov, 28, photographer and zoologist at the White Sea Biological Station in Karelia, Russia

Clickbait



HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

As shoppers digest the announcement/confession/stunt that Amazon hopes to have flying robots deliver their goods, we take a look at other (real and not-so-real) drone delivery services:

TacoCopter:

Unveiled at tech conference Disrupt SF back in September, the TacoCopter was aerial robot designer Skycatch's answer to Californians' need for instant delicious Mexican food.

DomiCopter:

You guessed it. Domino's goes drone with the DomiCopter.

Oppikoppi music festival beer drop:

Since you can't have tacos or pizza without beer, there's a drone drop for that too. South Africa's Oppikoppi festival used GPS-guided drones to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION:
DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

help music-lovers avoid long lines at the beer tent and drop cold brews to the parched brus.

Twitter

Merriam-Webster say searches for the word 'science' are up 176 per cent this year. What's the explanation for this?

@Ptwhohig: The explanation is rooted in the confusion that exists over good & bad science as well as the politics of science. Climate change, fracking, pipelines, hydro development, Chris Hadfield, etc have all generated interest in science

@ommoran: Explanation? Students no longer sure what the word "science" means and having to "Google it".

@deekes11: I'm thinkin Breaking Bad has something to do with it #heisenberg

@AliciaMarie_09 maybe some awesome parents are showing girls there is more to life than twerking/selfies. Brains are sexy too!

@likeibother 176% is not a huge jump. It's actually just more than double. And it's taken from their own search web only

@myomichu Science sensationalized and turned into entertainment. Good for education but sometimes borderline fiction.

@cailiey I would bet @SarcascticRover has an idea why...he's currently doing a science on the red planet...

@LeosBandwagon isn't the answer clearly "science" itself #scienceisalwayssteanswer

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Das Auto.

*Base MSRP of a new and unregistered 2014 Passat 2.5L base model with 5-speed manual transmission is \$23,975, excluding \$1,395 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and other applicable taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Passat" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2013 Volkswagen Canada.



This might change your mind about your greek yogurt.

metronews.ca
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

SCENE

19

A happy holiday accident: How Love Actually left a starry legacy

Cast of thousands. As Richard Curtis notes, even the then-lesser-known actors in his 2003 romantic comedy are now major stars



Richard Curtis swears he didn't set out to make a Christmas classic with *Love Actually* — which just turned 10 years old — but that's what exactly happened. "I didn't really think that when I was writing the film. I certainly didn't think, 'This is a cunning commercial measure.' I just thought it was in the spirit of the film," Curtis tells Metro.

"Particularly in the States, I think it's become a Christmas thing. I think it's just kind of on a loop on some English TV stations (year-round), but I think it's become more of a Christmas thing. And it's delightful. I think you consider it lucky. I feel that a little bit about *Love Actually*, that I wrote a multi-thing movie, and because it was a Christmas one it looks like it's going to last."

What Curtis finds particularly entertaining is what's become of the film's massive cast, originally built as a mix of big stars (Hugh Grant, Emma



Hugh Grant, as the British prime minister, and Martine McCutcheon, as his assistant, at a Christmas pageant in Richard Curtis' 2003 romantic comedy *Love Actually*. PETER MOUNTAIN/UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Thompson) and lesser-known faces (Chiwetel Ejiofor, Andrew Lincoln).

"It now seems over-cast because half the cast weren't very well-known (at the time), only if you really watched English telly," he says. "And now with Martin Freeman being the Hobbit and with (Lincoln on) *The Walking Dead* and with January Jones on *Mad Men* and Chiwetel now I hope going to win an Oscar this year, the movie's looking increasingly unbalanced. There was meant to be a balance between people you

knew and people you didn't. Even Thomas Sangster, who played the little boy, is now on *Game of Thrones*."

In that spirit, here's a look at what the ensemble of *Love Actually* have been up to lately.

The Prime Minister and Natalie

Hugh Grant: Currently filming *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* for Guy Ritchie, Grant was last seen playing several nasty characters in *Cloud Atlas* and taking on Rupert Murdoch in the *News of the World* phone-

hacking scandal.

Martine McCutcheon: A familiar face with U.K. audiences when the film premiered thanks to her work on *EastEnders*, McCutcheon will next be seen in the TV movie *The Home Office*.

Daniel and Sam

Liam Neeson: The esteemed Irish actor reinvented himself with 2008's *Taken* and has now become one of the most successful — if unlikely — action stars in the world.

Thomas Brodie-Sangster: The 23-year-old has grown up on TV and movie screens, with roles in *Doctor Who* and *Nowhere Boy*, and currently stars as Jojen Reed on *Game of Thrones*.

Jamie and Aurelia

Colin Firth: Already a fan favorite at the time thanks to *Pride and Prejudice* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*, the very busy Firth is now an Oscar winner for *The King's Speech*.

Lúcia Moniz: The Portuguese actress and singer has been working steadily on TV in her home country, most recently on *Bem-Vindos a Beirais*.

Harry, Karen and Mia

Emma Thompson: The actress with the most heartbreaking and memorable scene in *Love Actually* is also earning plenty of Oscar buzz for this year's *Saving Mr. Banks*.

Alan Rickman: Forever known to a generation of fans as Pro-

fessor Snape in the *Harry Potter* series, Rickman recently starred as Ronald Reagan in Lee Daniels' *The Butler* and N.Y.C. nightlife guru Hilly Kristal in *CBGB* and will next take on King Louis XIV in *A Little Chaos*.

Heike Makatsch: The German actress has been working steadily in Europe for the past decade and can be seen in theatres now in *The Book Thief*.

Peter, Juliet and Mark

Keira Knightley: Already a star on the rise 10 years ago, Knightley is now an Oscar nominee who can next be seen in *Can a Song Save Your Life?* and *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*.

Chiwetel Ejiofor: After years of under-the-radar supporting roles, Ejiofor is a Best Actor hopeful this year for the powerful *12 Years a Slave*.

Andrew Lincoln: Lincoln went relatively unnoticed for years until taking the lead role in TV's *The Walking Dead*, now in its fourth season.

The naked stand-ins

Martin Freeman: He was already a TV star in the U.K. 10 years ago thanks to *The Office*, but now he's both Watson on *Sherlock* and the Hobbit in, well, *The Hobbit*.

Joanna Page: The Welsh actress has worked steadily on TV in the last decade — most notably as Stacey on *Gavin & Stacey* — and most recently popped up as Elizabeth I on the *Doctor Who* 50th anniversary special.

2 SCENE

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Christian Bale, left, and Casey Affleck in a scene from *Out of the Furnace*. KERRY HAYES/RELATIVITY MEDIA

For Out of the Furnace, Bale morphs once more

Hollywood chameleon. An actor known for his physical transformations explains how he got into (and out of) shape for a variety of movie roles



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Christian Bale likes to keep you guessing. The intense actor, who became a superstar playing Batman, makes chancy career choices on purpose.

"I like to think that as long as you continue choosing diverse roles, you can avoid becoming predictable," he says.

He could make a life (and a fortune) playing square-jawed superheroes in action movies, but instead chooses

to shake things up.

Since his breakthrough performance in 1987's *Empire of the Sun* he has been a chameleon, losing sixty pounds to play the skeletal lead in *The Machinist* and gaining a beer gut and a comb-over for an upcoming role in *American Hustle*.

This weekend in *Out of the Furnace* he changes it up once again. He stars as a steel mill worker pushed to extremes when his Iraq war veteran brother (Casey Affleck) gets mixed up with the wrong people and disappears.

The vengeance angle sounds Batmanesque, but *Out of the Furnace* is set far away from Gotham in the economically-depressed Rust Belt. There isn't a cowl or a cape in sight, and Bale has once again physically transformed himself.

Here's a look at how Bale physically changes it up for his movie roles.

American Psycho

Creating the "Olympian physique" of serial killer Patrick

Bateman in *American Psycho* took some discipline. "I'm English," he said, "and in England, we don't have many gyms around. We'd rather go to a pub instead." A trainer and a protein diet took off the pounds.

The Fighter

As boxer and former drug addict Dicky Eklund in *The Fighter* he dropped thirty pounds and used make-up and prosthetics to age himself. How did he lose the weight? "Usually I always say, 'Oh, I do a lot of coke whenever I lose weight.' I'm not sure if it's so funny for this movie, to say that." In reality he trained with the real-life Eklund and boxed the pounds off.

Velvet Goldmine

In *Velvet Goldmine* he plays a London journalist looking into the life and faked death of glam rock singer Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Meyers). Once again he had to physically transform, but not in the traditional way.

When his mom saw that he was working out and running at 6 a.m. she said, "Christian, what are you doing? You're doing a film about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Why don't you do it the way they did it? They weren't out running. They drank a helluva lot and lived unhealthily."

"I took that to heart," he says, "and it works."

No need for the gym

"Christian, what are you doing? You're doing a film about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Why don't you do it the way they did it? They weren't out running. They drank a helluva lot and lived unhealthily."

Christian Bale's mom, when she saw he was working out in order to lose weight for *Velvet Goldmine*



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SCENE

21

Cheers! Kirstie and Rhea reunite for another sitcom

Veteran duo. Only this time around, Perlman's character actually cares about Alley's — and is only sort of antagonistic

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

As Carla Tortelli on Cheers, Rhea Perlman spent 11 seasons openly antagonizing the patrons and some of the staff of a Boston bar. On Kirstie, her first regular sitcom gig in ages, she's only somewhat antagonistic to the other characters, including fellow Cheers alum Kirstie Alley. Perlman plays the best friend and assistant of Alley's Broadway diva, who reconnects with a son (Eric Petersen) she'd given up for adoption. (Another sitcom vet, Michael Richards, plays her chauffeur.) For the record, she's not remotely antagonistic in person.

What was it that made you want to come back to full-time sitcom work?

I love my sitcom days. It's the coolest job in acting. It's live, which is very rare and fabulous. You get to rehearse for four days then do it in front of an audience. It's a mixture of being on stage and being on film.

Apart from reuniting with Kirstie Alley here, you've often popped up on shows by other Cheers castmates. How easy is it to slip back into that rapport?

It's like seeing your old friends from college. With people you haven't seen in a long time but you were really close with, you just go right back. I do keep up with some of them.

Your character's relationship with Alley is a lot less antagonistic than it was on Cheers.

This one I really care about her. On Cheers, Carla, she was fine with her, and she was better with her than with Diane. But she didn't care about her. Carla cared about Sam and about her kids. But I wouldn't say she really cared about the other people in the bar.

You've only done a handful of episodes so far. How easy is it finding the show's voice so early on?

I feel like as with any show, in its first year, you start finding



Rhea Perlman, who played the wisecracking waitress Carla on Cheers, has returned to regular sitcom work with a role on Kirstie. GETTY IMAGES

it, and the writers start finding it, and the actors start finding it. If we're lucky enough to have another season, it will continue to be found. I love the medium because there's no beginning, middle or end. You just get to continue developing the character, to find where she's from and where she can go.

It's a lot like TV dramas in that sense.

I've never been in one of those dramas, which I love to watch, like Breaking Bad, where you just don't know how it's going to end. Will I get killed? We don't usually worry if we're going to get killed in comedy.

How does it affect you not knowing the end of a show?

I don't think you're ever really safe in acting, ever. Even if you're doing the same show every night, it's never the same. You don't know what you're going to do, what the audience is going to do. It's not like you're doing a math problem, where you know there's a solution at the end and you get it right or you get it wrong.

Eric Petersen has done stage but this is his first TV show. How did he fit in with three vets?

He just really jumped right in. I was impressed, because I think people would be intimidated by us — not that we're intimidating people, because we're not. He's comfortable with himself and he's comfortable being on stage.

So you didn't have to teach

him things?

We never had to teach him things! I was ready to teach him things. He didn't ask, the sonofab— (Laughs.)

Kirstie's station, TV Land, has a reputation of really supporting its shows and its actors.

I feel like they like the show. That's a great feeling. The legend with Cheers is, our first two years, we were at the bottom of the ratings. Like 67 out of 68 or whatever it was. But the network, they loved the show, and we knew they loved the show. And we were so blissfully unaware that we might be in jeopardy. I don't think any of the actors ever thought about that.

We just felt like these people like us, so we'll keep doing this show. It was very comfortable. I really think it's a great way for networks to be. They should put their weight behind a show, because they picked it to begin with. They chose to do that pilot and they chose to pick it up, then they have to choose to nurture it. (TV Land is) very nurturing.

Are you aware these days of how well a show is doing?

These days you have to be a little bit aware. In the old days you wouldn't have any idea. I wasn't paying any attention to ratings or whether people liked the show till we were a hit. Now I'm sure once it starts airing, I'm going to be aware of how it's doing. They'll be telling us, it will be written up, it will be hard to avoid knowing how it's doing.



George Clooney. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

George Clooney hasn't found the right woman

It turns out George Clooney just hasn't met the right woman yet. As part of a questionnaire by artist Tracey Emin used for a "text portrait" of the actor in W magazine, Clooney was asked who the love of his life is or was, and his response?

"I haven't met her yet." But don't feel too bad for Clooney, as the hard-working actor has at least managed to find a way to avoid homesickness.

"I spend eight months a year in a one-bedroom hotel room in a city I probably

wouldn't vacation in," he says. "But no city, no space fails to be a home if your family and friends can find the time to visit. I get desperately, depressingly homesick if I can't find a way to be near the people that bring joy wherever they go."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Walker died on a 'hot spot for street racers,' say police

While the neighbourhood where Fast & Furious star Paul Walker died in a fiery crash is known to attract street racers, law enforcement officials do not believe the Porsche he and a friend were riding in had been racing another car.

Accident investigators "have received eyewitness statements that the car involved was travelling alone at a high rate of speed," the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement Monday. "No eyewitness has contacted the (department) to say there was a second vehicle."

Walker and his friend and fellow fast-car enthusiast Roger Rodas died Saturday when Rodas' 2005 Porsche Carrera GT smashed into a light pole and tree, then exploded in flames. The posted limit was 45 m.p.h. (about 72 km/h).

The two had taken what

was expected to be a brief drive away from a charity fundraiser and toy drive at Rodas' custom car shop in Valencia, about 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Walker's publicist said the action star was the passenger. The crash happened on a street that forms an approximately one-mile loop amid industrial office parks. It is rimmed by hills and relatively isolated from traffic, especially on weekends when the businesses are closed.

"It's well-known out here that that's a hot spot for street racers," California Highway Patrol Sgt. Rick Miller said.

Skid marks are a testament to past antics on the loop. The sheriff's department, which polices the neighbourhood, said Saturday's wreck was not the first speed-related crash there, but would not reveal specifics.

Meanwhile, investigators are consulting video from security cameras, talking to witnesses and analyzing physical evidence such as on-board computer data from the Porsche.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Diane Lane

She's no Lois, but Lane is single ahead of role in Superman flick

Josh Brolin and Diane Lane have finalized their divorce and are officially single, according to E! News.

The couple was married for eight years before Lane filed for divorce in February. "It is very amicable," a source says.

"It's not ugly, it's just over."

Lane is currently gearing up to film Batman vs. Superman, while Brolin most recently checked himself into rehab for alcohol abuse.



Lindsay Lohan

Lohan to sue Grand Theft Auto V

Lindsay Lohan is reportedly set to send her lawyers after the makers of Grand Theft Auto V because she believes they used her image without permission to create a character in the hugely successful video game, according to TMZ.

One part of the gameplay involves hiding a Lohanesque character from the paparazzi, while another tasks players to photograph her having sex at a hotel that resembles Lohan's regular hangout the Chateau Marmont.

Lohan's lawyers are reportedly crafting a suit that demands significant compensation.

Only the best in sunny Key West

Party spot. Warm Florida town rivals New Orleans for wild street life and just plain old fun



JIM BYERS
@jimbystravel
jimbystravel.com

Wild, weird and utterly wonderful.

From sunset cheers to cheap beers, and from wacky parades to fine cuisine, Key West might be the only town in North America that gives New Orleans a run for its money in terms of forget all your cares, down and dirty fun. Here's a look.

Doing

America doesn't mind selling guns to almost anyone, but they generally frown on sipping an adult beverage on a public street. Go figure.

Lucky for you, Key West encourages us to take the libation of our choice and stroll down Duval Street, all the while wearing just about anything that might strike our fancy.

Everything you've heard about this street is true; cross-dressers give you the come on as you parade past, tiny bars offer dollar beers (okay, American beers, but still) and gays and lesbians and transgendered folks mingle with gawking tourists from Peterborough and Pennsylvania. Crowds gather nightly at Mallory Square to watch the sunset and applaud the majesty. Tacky? Maybe.

But it's tons of fun, and a



Sunsets at Mallory Square in Key West are an event with lots of drinking and wild applause. JIM BYERS/METRO

great way to meet people.

Duval is a parade almost any night, but it's especially wild around Mardi Gras and Halloween. Too much excitement? Try a wonderful, peaceful sail on a classic schooner. For \$5, you'll get a 90-minute ride on the shimmering green waters of the Florida Keys. Free sodas and beer, wine or champagne for a buck. You also could retreat into the quiet of the beautiful, white St. Paul's Episcopal Church if you really want a respite.

Sleeping

Should you choose to actually go to bed, the options are endless. High end

luxury types can opt for the Casa Marina, a Waldorf Astoria resort. Rooms aren't large in an old place like this but it's beautiful, and you can arrange for a dinner just steps from the sand. Rooms listed recently for \$179 and up in December. Close to the action, but a world apart. Closer to Duval, but still far enough away, is the Key Lime Inn, part of the Historic Key West Inns group. The pool isn't fancy but the units are Florida chic and the folks friendly as can be. Rooms from about \$159 in December.

Dining

Seven Fish is a dynamite

spot near the Key Lime Inn, offering luscious fish, and, I'm told, excellent meat loaf. Looking for something more, well, Floridian? You can't beat the casual, outdoor dining at Blue Heaven, where one of the buildings used to be a bordello and where stray cats or chickens often roam among tables set under luxurious palms and a giant sail.

Drinking

Too many to mention. But try Sloppy Joe's on Duval or Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Other great spots include the Green Parrot on Whitehead St., which Playboy magazine once called the definitive Key West saloon.

Learning

Killed too many brain cells and need a jolt of something historical? Check out the Truman "Little White House" on Front Street to see where Harry S. himself did some of his work. Or look into the Hemingway Home and Museum, one-time hangout of the famous author and former Toronto Star correspondent, or the Key West Heritage House Museum and Robert Frost Cottage.

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Prices are from London to Key West or Cayo Coco. Prices shown are per person, based on double occupancy in full room category unless otherwise noted. Space and taxes are subject to availability at time of booking and subject to change without prior notice. Taxes and fees are extra and remain above. Travel Agency fees may apply. For full descriptions and terms and conditions please refer to the Nolitours 2013/2014 Sun Breakers. Nolitours is a division of Regency Travel Canada Inc. and is regulated under the Travel Act in Canada. ©2013 Nolitours Inc. All rights reserved. 1-877-786-7866, Suite 1000, Etobicoke, ON M9C 5G8.

Los Cabos with a SoCal vibe

Located where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez, Los Cabos has gained a reputation as a desert playground for the stars. Secluded on the southern tip of the Baja peninsula, the communities of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo appear more SoCal than Mexico, offering everything from spas and eco tours to exclusive resorts.

DEAN LISK

dean.lisk@metronews.ca

Esperanza, an Auberge Resort

Situated a few minutes outside Cabo San Lucas, the resort hosted Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton during the G20 conference in 2012. Each of the resort's 57 rooms occupy an entire floor of a series of casitas — small houses — that make up the resort. All rooms face the Sea of Cortez, with the upper floors featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that can be swung open to create an indoor-outdoor living space, including a private hot tub on the terrace. The resort's spa was recently named the best in Latin America by Travel + Leisure. esperanzaresort.com



Flora Farm

Found near San Jose del Cabo, Flora Farm was built more than a decade ago by a California couple keen on carving an organic farm out of the desert landscape. The 10-acre complex has become a popular dining spot for locals and visitors, with everything cooked either grown on site or — in the case of the meat — raised at a second 150-acre farm owned by Flora's owners. Reservations are recommended. flora-farms.com

Accommodations

- **Las Ventanas Al Paraíso.** The resort's name translates into Windows to Paradise, and for good reason: from arranging over-the-top wedding proposals to massages for pets, the resort makes sure your every wish is realized. rosewoodhotels.com/en/las-ventanas-los-cabos

- **One & Only Palmilla.** With its original villa built in 1956 as a 15-room luxury

hideaway for the son of the President of Mexico and his actress girlfriend, the resort has been hosting Hollywood stars ever since. Not only does it feature one of the few swimmable beaches in the region, but it also boasts the four-bedroom Villa Cortez, a more than 10,000 square foot private hotel-in-a-hotel with a staff of 12. Depending on the season it

rents for \$11,500 to \$22,000 US per night palmilla.oneandonlyresorts.com

- **Capella Pedregal.** Located in Cabos San Lucas, the resort is only accessible through a tunnel that was blasted through a large hill separating the city from the Pacific Ocean. The complex blends seamlessly into the mountainside.

The Arch - El Arco

A rock formation at the southern tip of Cabo, the area features a number of beaches along with eroded areas that act as doorways where the Sea of Cortez crashes against the Pacific Ocean. On the sea side, a series of beaches, like Lovers and Pelican Rock, drop off swiftly, with the water depth reaching 25 to more than 500 feet within a few metres of shore. On the ocean side, the current along Divorce Beach is too strong for swimming, but its position facing west means more tanning time.



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Wrap it, then pack it

The diehard travellers on your list might have their sights set on things a little out of your price range — a round-the-world airplane ticket or adventure tour, perhaps. Luckily, there are a few affordable options globetrotters can appreciate.



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

The softer side of luggage

Recently I broke my habit of hard-sided luggage and test drove a soft-sided bag, the Atlantic Compass Unite. The bag's claim to fame is its four-wheel spinners. They work in all directions even when linked with Velcro to matching bags, making a family's worth of luggage easier to manage. I loved that it was lightweight and seemingly indestructible. After two weeks and six flights, this bag looked like I just bought it. Starting at \$130 at Bentley and CAA.



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Conair's Travel Smart products include minis made for travelling. Whether a clothes iron or a curling iron, their products are mini-sized for your packing convenience. Each of the personal appliances offers worldwide voltage and works anywhere in the world as long as you have a plug adapter. Available for under \$40 at conair.com or in travel stores like Toronto's The Travel Stop.

It's all about the experience

For those who prefer providing an experience versus giving something tangible, Travelzoo has launched an online holiday gift guide, offering unique experiences, including spa days at the Four Seasons or Bliss spas, romantic getaways and dining at Michelin-starred restaurants. Each experience can be sent as an e-gift or mailed as a gift certificate. Gift-givers can expect savings of 30 per cent to 50 per cent off rack prices without sacrificing the wow factor. travelzoo.ca

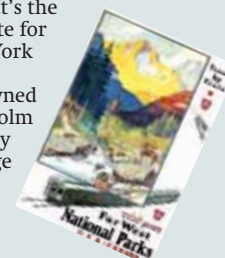


The gift of a good night's sleep

The GoodNightFlight eye mask not only blocks out the light but it promises to eliminate the head bob; that uncomfortable head loll and jerk as you are nodding off. It comes with straps that anchor your head to the head rest and prevent you from face planting into your neighbour's shoulder. Designed for plane travel, it can also be used in cars and trains. Retail for \$24.95 US. Allow 10 days for shipping. goodnightflight.com

If you can't get there, buy a poster

For those looking for less practical gifts, I love vintage travel posters. There is something romantic about these nostalgic pieces of art. You can usually find small selections in poster and print shops across the country, but for a large selection under one digital roof, check out vintagepostersnyc.com. It's the website for New York City's renowned Chisholm Gallery vintage posters. Prices vary.



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Roll everything minus the kitchen sink into these sweet and salty treats

This is the cookie to make when you're looking to clean out the cupboards.

You'll pack them with all manner of treats — and oddities — from rolled oats,

Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp previously brewed coffee grounds
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 3/4 cup chopped prunes
- 1 cup crushed wavy potato chips
- 1 cup salted peanuts
- 1 cup chopped bittersweet chocolate

peanuts and chocolate chips to chopped prunes, crushed potato chips and even coffee grounds (trust us on that last one). The more unusual the combination, the better the results. But don't feel you have to stop there. Got any other crackers, chips, nuts or dried fruit handy? Toss them in and let these cookies truly earn their kitchen sink name.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line a large baking sheet with kitchen parchment.

2. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, both sugars, baking soda, baking powder and salt until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, egg yolk, vanilla and coffee grounds. Stir in the flour, then stir in the oats, prunes, potato chips, peanuts and chocolate.

3. Working in batches, scoop one tablespoon-sized balls of dough onto the prepared bak-

Sweet-and-Salty Kitchen Sink Cookies



This recipe makes four and a half dozen cookies. MATTHEW MEAD, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ing sheet, leaving 2 inches between the cookies. Bake for 11 to 13 minutes, or until light golden brown. Allow the cook-

ies to cool for 5 minutes on the baking sheet before transferring to a rack to cool completely. Allow the baking sheet to

cool between batches. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Bombay Butter Toddy

- 1 and 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire
 - 1/2 oz Drambuie
 - 6 oz Mulled Apple Cider
 - 1 knob butter
- ### Mulled Apple Cider
- 2 L apple cider
 - 4 cinnamon sticks
 - 4 orange slices
 - 2 tbsp brown sugar
 - 1 tbsp nutmeg
 - 1 tbsp whole allspice
 - 1 tbsp whole cloves
 - 1/2 inch fresh ginger (cut into coins)

On medium heat, mull the apple cider for an hour. Stir occasionally. Add Bombay Sapphire, Drambuie and a knob of butter to mug. Pour in mulled cider. Garnish with cinnamon stick and apple slice. Use cinnamon stick to stir in butter as it melts into drink. **TROY GILCHRIST/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE**



Freeze-dried strawberries add a potent blast of flavour

Strawberry Pistachio Icebox Cookies



This recipe makes five dozen cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, sugar, vanilla, baking powder and salt. Add the egg yolks and beat to combine. Stir in the flour until a dough just comes together. Stir in the strawberries and pistachios until evenly distributed.

2. Divide the dough in half. Using a sheet of waxed paper to help you work with the dough, shape each half into a log 1 1/2 inches around and 12 inches long. Wrap tightly and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.

3. When ready to bake, heat the oven to 375 F.

4. Place the sanding sugar in a dinner plate. Unwrap one of the logs and roll it in the sugar to coat the sides. Using a paring knife, slice the log into about 30 rounds. To prevent the log from losing its shape, turn the log a little with each slice. Working in batches, arrange the slices on a baking sheet, leaving 1 inch between them.

5. Bake for 15 to 17 minutes, or until golden brown around the edges. Transfer to a rack to cool completely. Repeat with the remaining log.

6. Store cookies in an airtight container at room temperature. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup crushed freeze-dried strawberries
- 1 cup chopped shelled pistachios
- Sanding (coarse decorating) sugar

Dessert. Peanut Butter and Jelly Cookies



1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with kitchen parchment.

2. In food processor, combine granulated sugar and golden raisins, then pulse until chopped to small pieces, but not a puree.

3. In bowl, beat brown sugar, peanut butter, eggs, vanilla and salt until thoroughly mixed. Mix in the sugar and raisins until evenly distributed.

4. Working in batches, scoop 1 tablespoon-sized balls of dough onto the prepared baking sheet, leaving 2 inches between cookies. Use a fork to make crosshatch design on the top of each cookie, slightly flattening them in the process. Bake for

11 to 13 minutes, or until light golden brown.

5. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a rack to cool completely. Allow the baking sheet to cool between batches. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 15-oz jar natural peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt

Back away from the tech device and take it all in

Books without beeps.

A professor pitches the idea of putting cellphones away in hopes of inspiring authentic interaction

VICKI
SALEMI

Metro World News

Pick a campus, any campus. As you stroll around, chances are you'll notice fewer students without a tech device than with them: all the more reason for Andrew Reiner, an English professor at Towson University, to teach his course, *The Search for Intimacy in the Age of Facebook*.

"As I started teaching at the college level, I was getting a vibe there was a lot of disconnect. Whether it was walking to dining halls, libraries or when I'd walk into class — there were endless amounts of phone activity and Facebooking."

Reiner's overall purpose was to help students find authenticity and springboard into relationships with others. He wants his students to disengage online to re-engage offline. For instance, Reiner has given students a tech-free assignment based on an essay from a book called *The Sabbath*. Reiner realizes that he can't deny students their technology, but he encourages them to become independent from it, taking a four-hour break from social media as part of the class.

"It's really not that long, but to them it was a lifetime," he



Does the thought of putting your phone down for five minutes send shivers down your spine? Try four hours. ISTOCK

Status update slow-down

"The need to be in touch breeds hyper-conformity. You're like a pariah if you're not on Facebook for a day."

Andrew Reiner
English professor

explains. "They had to do something by themselves that did not involve homework or being plugged in and write a guided reflection. Reflections that came back spoke to a kind of disconnect from themselves."

In another recent assignment, students sat alone in a crowded lunchroom. They weren't allowed to use smartphones, laptops, do school-work, use social media or text.

"The need to be in touch breeds hyper-conformity. You're like a pariah if you're not on Facebook for a day."

Describing it as a "very deliberate and conscious way" to defy technology, Reiner's goal is to teach students to be in control of technology and not the other way around.

"All it really requires is the willingness to impose some boundaries on the extent to which I get back to people and the speed at which I get back to [them]," he says. Reiner fears that not setting boundaries for technology may have dire implications for society. "I'm scared for our culture, for the world that my 2-year-old is entering into," he says. In order to set boundaries and reconnect with life offline — in addition to regular four-hour "Sabbaths"

— Reiner recommends writing monthly letters to tell someone something you have wanted to share for "a few days, months or even years."

And make it meaningful, he recommends: "Tell them something that deeply matters to you, whether it's resentment, hurt or gratitude. ... Frame the truth in an honest, respectful tone. [It's] about reconnecting with a deeper, personal authenticity and discovering that confrontation can be civil and productive without the stress."

Students weigh
in on letting go of
technology

Leonard Randall Chisolm,
college sophomore:
"Technology is great; it's a

great way to stay in touch.

I think some people abuse it and at times I have abused it but there are some times you have to control yourself and say, 'Get me get back to the real world.' I'll go to the gym and leave my phone down for two or three hours and play basketball. I come back to my phone. I can be okay with it; there are one or two things you may miss but I don't think you're missing the whole world. Maybe you want to be the first person to see a funny video, see a funny picture or a game score but it's the internet so you'll always be able to find it somewhere."

Grace Delmar,
university sophomore:

"I try not to use electronics like my phone when I am eating with friends, as I find it impolite and distracting from the present. However, if I am eating alone, it is a much different story. If I were sitting alone at lunch, I would be very uncomfortable without technology. I wouldn't really know what to do or look at."

"I think that's part of the fear of going without technology, though I also think it has to do with worrying about how other perceive you. Though some are comfortable eating alone, I am not, as I feel people might be judging me or feeling sorry for me. Though I'm sure this is not the case, I know many people at many different colleges who feel the same. Having a phone or computer out can be a distraction from this

TalentEgg asks...

#QuestionoftheDay:
Is it a bad idea to
be Facebook friends
with a professional
contact? Why (not)?



• @nikkiwray: @TalentEgg Depends on company culture. I have been FB friends with my boss + team. We shared fun content on FB @ work! #questionoftheday

• @mp256: @TalentEgg No. I prefer to segregate my personal and professional life #QuestionoftheDay

• @EDSPowell: @TalentEgg I am Facebook friends with my long-time associate @mikerice. It's never been a problem — he sent me a cat picture on my birthday.

• @ThatPrince: @TalentEgg It depends on the circumstances. A lot of community managers become Facebook friends with co-workers to grant admin privileges

• @Recruit_Campus: @TalentEgg: #QuestionoftheDay! Usually yes, I'd recommend waiting until one of you leaves the company before connecting!

• @Tomiibecca: @TalentEgg depends on your role. For managers who have people reporting to them it's usually better to separate work/personal.

feeling, or it can make us feel more connected with friends and people who aren't there. Perhaps as a little self-esteem boost and a sense of comfort that we're not alone."

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The Sharks' Tomas Hertl looks for a rebound against Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer in Toronto on Tuesday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Leafs could have used a bigger boat

Unfriendly waters.
Buds lose 5th straight
against red-hot Sharks

Randy Carlyle really liked how the Toronto Maple Leafs started against the San Jose Sharks.

In a game he saw as a measuring stick, they got three shots on net in the first two minutes and looked like they could hang with one of the top teams in the NHL. Then Frazer McLaren took exception to Andrew Desjardins' hit on Jerred Smithson and things fell apart.

McLaren's penalty was the first of many costly ones as the Leafs lost to the Sharks 4-2

On Tuesday

4

Sharks

2

Maple Leafs

Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre, their fifth straight defeat.

"Discipline's a huge part," said Leafs winger Mason Raymond, who scored a goal and committed two penalties. "You're killing penalties, you're not playing offence and you're playing in your own zone, so we're kind of shooting

ourselves in the foot there."

McLaren's penalty came not long after the Leafs (14-11-3) got the game's first three shots in the first 1:21 and controlled much of the play. Even though the Sharks (19-3-5) didn't score on the ensuing power play, they didn't give the puck up much for the rest of the period.

Former Leafs forward Mike Brown opened the scoring for the Sharks midway through the period when he tipped a shot from defenceman Jason Demers five-hole past James Reimer.

Joe Thornton scored later in the period on a 5-on-3 power play to make it 2-0.

The Leafs seized the momentum early in the second

and Phil Kessel's goal midway through the period tied the game at 2-2.

Naturally it was another penalty that caused the reversal. The Sharks had started to get more attack time, and when Raymond took a high-sticking penalty, it gave San Jose the spark it needed.

Again, the Sharks didn't have a power-play goal to show for their efforts, but they had enough attack time to put the Leafs on their heels.

At no point was that more evident than on the shift that led to Mark Stuart's game-winner. Toronto's fourth line of McLaren, Smithson and Colton Orr were caught on the ice for 1:48. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL

Crosby carries Pens past Islanders

Sidney Crosby scored the tying goal in the third period and then won it with a brilliant individual effort 3:44 into overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the New York Islanders 3-2 on Tuesday night.

In overtime, Crosby stole the puck from Thomas Vanek just outside the New York blue-line, streaked down the middle between two defencemen and jammed a backhand past Anders Nilsson for his 15th goal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Moneyball

Beane wheelin' and dealin'

Billy Beane is busy dealing in December once again.

In one whirlwind stretch of less than 24 hours, the Oakland general manager pulled off a trio of trades with three different clubs and upgraded Oakland's bullpen in the process.

The A's acquired AL saves leader Jim Johnson, right-handed reliever Luke Gregerson and outfielder Craig Gentry in trades all since Monday night.

Oakland also is waiting on lefty Scott Kazmir's physical to finalize a \$22-million, two-year contract. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Skiing

Vonn could return at Lake Louise

Lindsey Vonn has been cleared to begin World Cup downhill training.

The U.S. Ski Team team said that a decision on whether Vonn will return to competition at Lake Louise will be made after Thursday's training session. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

CFL

Als end wait, name Weightman team president

After leaving the president's office vacant for 18 months, the Montreal Alouettes opted to hire from within.

The club announced Tuesday that Mark Weightman, the former Chief Operating Officer, will be the new president and CEO. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NHL. The Great One scores \$8M settlement



Wayne Gretzky at the Capitals-Canadiens game in Washington on Nov. 22. GREG FIUME/GETTY IMAGES

The NHL has reached a settlement with Wayne Gretzky to pay him money owed from his time with the Phoenix Coyotes, multiple sources with knowledge of the situation told The Canadian Press.

It was worth close to \$8 million US, according to one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gretzky was owed money from former Coyotes owner Jerry Moyes. He filed for bankruptcy in 2009, leading to the NHL's ownership of the team

until it was sold to a group led by Canadian businessmen this past summer.

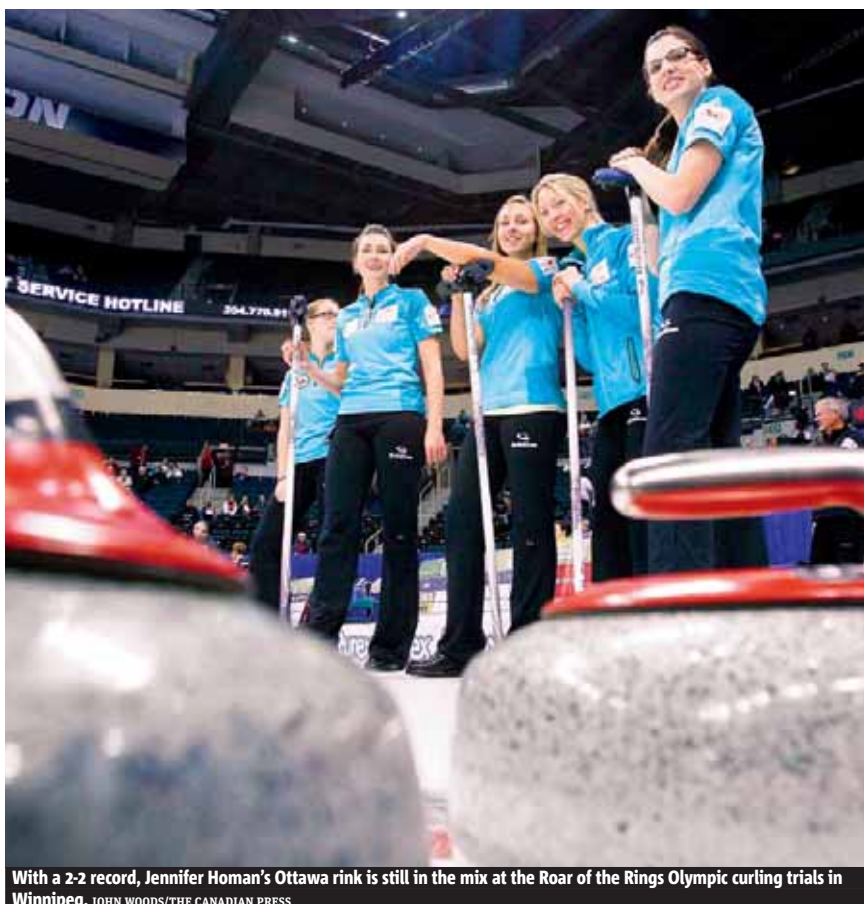
Gretzky had served as coach and head of hockey operations before the Coyotes went bankrupt.

He made an appearance on the red carpet at last month's Hockey Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the insistence of Chris Chelios. Since then, he was seen at a Washington Capitals game sitting with owner Ted Leonsis.

But Gretzky hadn't been

officially involved with the NHL since the Coyotes situation.

"I'm always close to the game," Gretzky said last month at the Hall of Fame. "The game's always been good to me. The National Hockey League commissioner's office, they have always treated me with a great deal of respect and always been good to me. I've chosen at this point in time to take a step back and be a fan like everyone else and watch." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



With a 2-2 record, Jennifer Homan's Ottawa rink is still in the mix at the Roar of the Rings Olympic curling trials in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones, Sweeting sweeping successes at Olympic trials

... so far. Pair share lead at Roar of the Rings with crucial draws coming up

Two teams share the top of the standings on the women's side at the Canadian Olympic curling trials going into play Wednesday.

Jennifer Jones and Val Sweeting sat at 3-1 after Tuesday's draw.

Sweeting is technically in the lead, thanks to handing Jones her only loss so far. But at this point, it's what happens next that all 16 teams know matters most.

"It will be the turning point Wednesday, Thursday, obviously," said Heather Nedo-hin, who handed Sweeting her

Men's action

Both Kevin Martin and Brad Jacobs won their matches on Tuesday night to stay undefeated in the men's side.

- Winnipeg's Jeff Stoughton beat John Epping 4-3 in the morning, but his loss to John Morris in the evening virtually eliminates him from the playoffs.

first loss with a last rock draw to win a tight game 6-5.

"I don't think anyone at the trials ever has done this undefeated," said Sweeting.

"I thought we just got outplayed."

Both teams curl out of the Saville Community Sports Centre in Edmonton.

Nedohin sits in a four-team logjam below the leaders at 2-2 with Renee Sonnenberg and Sherry Middaugh at 1-3, and unlikely to move on.

"Three losses is going to be tough to make it in," said Sonnenberg.

"If we can finish above .500 that's a feather in our hat too."

Jones dominated Sonnenberg from start to finish Tuesday shaking hands at 7-2 after the eighth. It was a solid comeback after Monday night's 9-6 loss to Sweeting, which included a disastrous four in the seventh end.

"I don't know if we gave it away, we just made too many mistakes so it wasn't our best effort," said Jones.

"I thought we bounced back as well as we could have today."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Nuggets subs chug along to another win in Brooklyn

A small but spirited cheer broke out in a corner of Barclays Center, a contrast to the boos that rained down for much of the second half.

Timofey Mozgov had just grabbed his career-high 20th rebound late in



Timofey Mozgov
GETTY IMAGES

Denver's 111-87 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday night, and the players on the Nuggets' bench were thrilled.

"It's just a great deal for us and for him. He works extremely hard and he did a hell of a job going against their bigs," Nuggets guard Nate Robinson said.

Mozgov, Robinson and the rest of the subs are providing plenty for the Nuggets to celebrate lately.

Mozgov also scored 17 points in another superb effort by the Denver bench, and the Nuggets raced to their seventh straight victory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Pistons spread floor to end Heat's streak at 10

It was just a game, not a playoff series. Still, Brandon Jennings finally got a long-awaited win over the Miami Heat.

And he made the two big-score plays to get it done.

Jennings made a deep, well-covered three-pointer to snuff out one Miami rally with 4:09 left, then stole the ball from LeBron James to set up another score two minutes later, and the Detroit Pistons beat the Heat 107-97 on Tuesday night to snap the NBA champions' 10-game winning streak.

Kyle Singler scored 18 points to lead seven Detroit players in double figures, Andre Drummond had 18 rebounds — more than any three Heat players combined — and Greg Monroe and Rodney Stuckey each scored 16 for the Pistons.

"We had a lot of good performances from a lot of people," Pistons coach Maurice Cheeks said. "Then we just held our composure because we knew that at some point they'd make a run. Brandon made that big three and we were able to hold on. When Brandon hit that big three, it kind of settled us down a little bit."

It was a small measure of comeuppance for Jennings, who predicted his Milwaukee



Pistons forward Josh Smith rises to the basket on a shot contested by the Heat's Chris Bosh on Tuesday night in Miami. GETTY IMAGES

Bucks would oust the Heat in six games when they met in the opening round of last season's playoffs, then got swept.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	27	18	7	2	75	55	38
Montreal	28	16	9	3	76	59	35
Detroit	28	14	7	7	78	73	35
Tampa Bay	27	16	10	1	76	67	33
Toronto	28	14	11	3	77	77	31
Ottawa	28	11	13	4	82	92	26
Florida	28	7	16	5	61	95	19
Buffalo	28	6	20	2	48	85	14

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	29	19	9	1	89	66	39
Washington	28	14	12	2	83	82	30
NY Rangers	28	14	14	0	62	71	28
New Jersey	28	11	12	5	61	67	27
Carolina	28	11	12	5	61	79	27
Philadelphia	27	12	13	2	57	65	26
Columbus	28	11	14	3	68	80	25
NY Islanders	28	8	15	5	74	96	21

Tuesday's results
San Jose 4 Toronto 2
Phoenix 6 Edmonton 2
Vancouver 3 Nashville 1
Ottawa 4 Florida 2
Carolina 4 Washington 1
Pittsburgh 3 NY Islanders 2 (OT)
Columbus 1 Tampa Bay 0
Dallas 4 Chicago 3
Los Angeles at Anaheim

Monday's results
Winnipeg 5 NY Rangers 2
Montreal 3 New Jersey 2
Minnesota 2 Philadelphia 0
Los Angeles 3 St. Louis 2

Wednesday's games — All times Eastern

Montreal at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Thursday's games
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Nashville, 8 p.m.
NY Islanders at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	29	20	5	4	105	80	44
St. Louis	26	18	5	3	91	60	39
Colorado	25	19	6	0	76	52	38
Minnesota	29	16	8	5	70	67	37
Dallas	26	13	9	4	74	76	30
Winnipeg	29	13	12	4	78	82	30
Nashville	28	13	12	3	63	78	29

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	27	19	3	5	96	62	43
Anaheim	29	18	7	4	91	77	40
Los Angeles	28	17	7	4	73	60	38
Phoenix	27	16	7	4	91	86	36
Vancouver	30	15	10	5	80	78	35
Calgary	26	9	13	4	70	93	22
Edmonton	29	9	18	2	75	101	20

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	13	23	36
Malkin, Pgh	7	28	35
Steen, StL	20	11	31
Getzlaf, Ana	13	18	31
Kane, Chi	16	14	30
Tavares, NYI	11	19	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Ovechkin, Wash	21	8	29
Perry, Ana	15	14	29
Thornton, SJ	4	25	29
H. Sedin, Van	7	21	28
Kunitz, Pgh	14	13	27
Couture, SJ	9	18	27
Karlsson, Ott	7	20	27
Marleau, SJ	12	14	26
Little, Win	12	14	26
Ryan, Ott	13	12	25
Backes, StL	12	13	25
Toews, Chi	12	13	25
D. Sedin, Van	10	15	25

Tuesday's games not included

MLS PLAYOFFS

MLS CUP

Saturday's game
Kansas City vs. Salt Lake, 4 p.m., EST

NFL

Monday's result

Seattle 34 New Orleans 7

WEEK 14

Thursday's game — All times Eastern

Houston at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m.

Sunday's games

Kansas City at Washington, 1 p.m.

Minnesota at Baltimore, 1 p.m.

Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Oakland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Cleveland at New England, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Atlanta at Green Bay, 1 p.m.

Detroit at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

Tennessee at Denver, 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.

Seattle at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.

St. Louis at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.

Carolina at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 9

Dallas at Chicago, 8:40 p.m.

NBA

Tuesday's results

Denver 111 Brooklyn 87

Memphis 110 Phoenix 91

Philadelphia 126 Orlando 125 (2OT)

Dallas 89 Charlotte 82

Boston 108 Milwaukee 100

Detroit 107 Miami 97

Oklahoma City at Sacramento

Toronto at Golden State

Monday's results

Washington 98 Orlando 80

New Orleans 131 Chicago 128 (3OT)

San Antonio 102 Atlanta 100

Utah 109 Houston 103

Portland 106 Indiana 102

Wednesday's games — All times Eastern

Denver at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Phoenix at Houston, 8 p.m.

Detroit at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Dallas at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Indiana at Utah, 9 p.m.

San Antonio at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

Oklahoma City at Portland, 10 p.m.

Thursday's games

New York at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.

Miami at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.

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ZOOM-ZOOM



GT model with Technology Package shown. Certain features available only on 2014 Mazda3 GS and GT models.

2014 Kia Soul

Review. Still quirky, but with a beefier body and classier interior

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

When quirky vehicles get their number called at the redesign department deli, they present an interesting dilemma to their design teams. How do you modernize or update them without making them too pretty?

It's much like Keith Richards — you don't want to smooth the hair, button the shirt up, or have him throw on more understated and elegant earrings, so he stops looking like a pirate. People love the pirate! So Kia did what it could only do when redesigning its quirky Soul for 2014 — change everything else except that iconic shape, face and tailgate.

The tailgate design was originally conceived around the idea of a backpack, and looks even more backpack-like this time around. The 2014 Soul is slightly longer and wider and lower than the outgoing model. Losing a bit of that top-heavy look and feel, and moving to a beefier platform, with lots more high-strength and ultra high-strength steel, have created a Soul that handles so much more proficiently and smoothly and quietly than the outgoing model.

Kyle Buller, the product planning supervisor at Kia Canada, says there is just as much high-strength steel in the new Soul as there is in the Audi A3. He adds that the size of the Hyundai-Kia group has enabled it to own and operate its own metal foundry. "We're able to source high-strength steel internally, which really helps in pricing," Buller said. Kia initially aimed the Soul at younger buyers, but older folks have gravitated to them because



ALL PHOTOS KIA



The interior has an upscale feel and a circular theme.

they are so easy to get in and out of... They also give empty-nest baby boomers that tall-in-the-saddle feel of regular SUVs, but without the huge gas bill.

My baby boomer bones agree. The front door is nice and big, and it's easy as pie to slide over to the cushy driver's seat. The entire interior is a fantastic leap from the previous model, which was known for its cheap-feeling interior. This interior is upscale in feel, and entirely conceived in a "circular" theme. Everything that can be made into a round shape had been made into a round shape. Even the steering wheel is round! Okay, so that was a no brainer, but the

wheel is really great too, with a very chunky and substantial feel.

The rear tailgate is very light and easy to use. But the load floor is quite high, which eats up a bit of storage space. And the rear seats don't entirely fold forward flat.

Both engines feature state-of-the-art direct injection (GDI in Kia-speak). The base 1.6-litre makes 130 hp and 118 lb-ft of torque, so it's not a rocket, but certainly adequate and certainly fuel-efficient: its City/Highway L/100 km ratings for automatic models are 8.6 and 6.5. The upgrade 2.0-litre engine features dual-cam variable timing, and produces 164 hp and

2014 Kia Soul

- **Type.** Five-door, front-wheel-drive, compact "tall" wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 1.8-litre DOHC I4, (130), 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (164)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual and six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$16,995

Design

The look has changed little from the previous model, which was originally conceived as the automotive equivalent of a British Bulldog wearing a backpack. Slight lower, longer and wider proportions suggest better on-road performance.

Compare

- 1 **Nissan Juke**
Base price: \$19,998
- 2 **Scion xB**
Base price: \$18,960

SX (\$23,595), and SX Luxury (\$26,995). It's hard to not like the Soul. Great style, great utility, very decent on-road performance, fuel economy, and value. And my colleagues seem to agree. Fellow AJAC members have just named it a 2014 Car of the Year in its segment for Best New Family Car Under \$30,000.

The AJAC Car of the Year finalists

The Automobile Journalists Association of Canada has narrowed down 36 potential winners to 12 finalists for the 2014 Canadian Car of the Year Award. A group of 80 AJAC members — journalists representing news outlets from coast to coast — test-drove 174 vehicles during a week-long series of trials in Niagara Falls this past October.

The annual fall new auto test event is conducted to evaluate the vehicles in the

dozen categories on the same day, over the same route, including a high-speed test circuit and/or a simulated off-road course or cottage road, depending on the category.

Testers ranked a wide range of attributes covering design, space, quality, performance, safety, economy and value. Professional test drivers also graded every vehicle for acceleration from rest and for passing acceleration and braking.

Transport Canada fuel consumption figures were also factored in. Vehicle traits are weighted differently in the various categories, taking into consideration that aspects like acceleration are more important for a sports car than a pickup truck. The vehicle's price is also considered in the sense that expensive vehicles should naturally offer better performance and style than lower-priced wheels.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

12 Category finalists

- **Small Car (under \$21k):** Mazda 3
- **Small Car (over \$21k):** Mazda 3 Sport
- **Family Car (under \$30k):** Kia Soul
- **Family Car (over \$30k):** Mazda 6
- **Luxury Car (under \$50k):** Lexus IS 350 RWD
- **Luxury Car (over \$50k):**

- Infiniti Q50 Hybrid
- **Sports/Performance (\$50k+):** Chevrolet Corvette Stingray
- **Prestige Car (over \$75k):** Mercedes-Benz S Class
- **SUV/CUV (under \$35k):** Jeep Cherokee
- **SUV/CUV (\$35k to \$60k):** Kia Sorento
- **SUV/CUV (\$60k+):** Acura MDX
- **Pickup:** GMC Sierra

5
DRIVE

Time we noticed the car-watch connection

Problems. After the recent introduction of McLaren's supercar companion watch, we look at the relationship between the timepiece and the automobile



**AUTO
PILOT**
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The famous Swiss watchmaker TAG Heuer recently introduced a companion watch to the McLaren MP4-12C supercar.

The McLaren MP4-12C accelerates from zero to 60 m.p.h. in about 2.9 seconds, give or take. The TAG Heuer MP4-12C Chronograph accelerates from zero to 60 seconds in, well, exactly 60 seconds, no give or take.

Acceleration times aside, we see that fine watches and fine automobiles share much in common, and their lives have always converged, and continue to converge.

Clocks have always been necessary components of an automobile's dashboard. And the chronograph, which



The MP4-12C by TAG Heuer McLaren



Bentley Breitling watch. BENTLEY

is both a stop watch and a display watch, has evolved into an elegant and iconic timepiece, which makes an evocation connection to the glamour days of automobile racing, when being a "gentleman and amateur racer" was an actual occupation for privileged men, and privileged women went out of their way to drive expensive open-top sports cars, just so they could show off their fashionable sunglasses and kerchiefs.

But the car-watch connection seems more about their similar natures than how they interact with each other. "Watches and cars are both

examples of functional objects that can also be beautiful and timeless — a combination of art and engineering," says Laurance Yap, a watch collector and writer, who also happens to be a gearhead, and director of marketing at Porsche Cars Canada.

He also notes that in the luxury space, both the watches and the cars throw something else on the table — a connection to a great brand. I guess on one level it's the brand snobbery thing, but Yap reminds us about the base elements that make a great brand so compelling... "All have great histor-



The McLaren MP4-12C supercar now has a companion watch, the TAG Heuer MP4-12C Chronograph. PHOTO: McLAREN

ies and great stories behind them."

Everybody's a sucker for a great story. I agree with the notion that we must be pre-wired to seek out storytellers and great stories, as way of filing our own and collective intelligence.

Or maybe, as Yap also points out, "high-end watches and cars are both shiny and expensive and complicated." Me want watch. Me want car.

Seems to me that the re-

lationship between high-end cars and high-end watches is actually deepening of late. You can't open a car magazine without hitting a swath of watch ads, or running across a column on watches. High-end car and watchmakers are making more and more alliances and creating more and more special edition watches every season. Watches are using design elements from cars, and vice-versa.

The most famous and

storied car brand/watch brand allegiance is probably Bentley and Breitling. They go back together a long way, even before David Beckham became Breitling's current famous-person product endorser. To his credit, Beckham is keeping his underwear modeling gig separate; never seen him in a Breitling ad without his pants on. That's classy David, and the way it should be for Breitling, and its automotive partner, Bentley.

To brake, or not to brake? Honda's hybrid knows

Regenerative braking.

Be it an emergency stop or slowly pulling up to a red light, the system knows just how to stop while also saving fuel

JIL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

When you take your foot off the gas pedal, your car starts to slow down. Savvy drivers take advantage of it, letting off the throttle before they need to brake, which can help them save fuel.

Automakers also capitalize on it, including Honda, which has designed an electric servo brake pedal system for its new Accord Hybrid.

"This is mainly for electric and hybrid cars," says Hayato Mori, manager of product planning for Honda Canada. "Anything with a large storage battery."

Hybrid vehicles recharge



The Honda Accord hybrid has regenerative braking that saves fuel when coasting. JIL MCINTOSH

their batteries through regenerative braking, capturing the kinetic energy when coasting and converting it into electricity. When more energy is captured, the car doesn't use its gasoline engine as much, which saves fuel.

The Accord Hybrid's brake system is essentially the same as with any other car. When you press the brake pedal, it sends hydraulic fluid to each of the car's four wheels, squeezing the brake pads against the brake discs to stop the car.

The difference is that when you put your foot on the pedal, it sends a signal to an electronic control unit, which determines how hard you're pressing it. If you're only touching it lightly, such as when you're slowing down for a red light up

ahead, you may not need full braking power yet. If that's the case, the system uses regenerative braking, which slows the car down and also feeds energy into the battery.

When the car's speed drops sufficiently, the system then sends hydraulic pressure to the brakes. It will also go straight to the hydraulic system any time you press the brake pedal firmly, or slam your foot on it during a panic stop, to activate the brakes immediately. The system reacts instantly, and the driver is never in any danger of not having full brakes when they're needed.

Honda estimates that the new system provides eight per cent better regeneration than with its Integrated Motor Assist, used in vehicles such as the Civic Hybrid, and has improved brake control.

Because it's electronic, the brake pedal doesn't feel the way most drivers would expect, so Honda added a spring to it. "It's called a

Brake out the facts

- Cars generate a lot of wasted energy when braking, and automakers are looking at new ways to harness it, both in hybrids and in conventional models.

- When driving a hybrid vehicle, you should try to coast as much as possible, which keeps the battery topped up and saves fuel.

- The regular Honda Accord uses a vacuum actuator for its power brakes, while the Accord Hybrid uses an electric actuator.

pedal feel simulator," Mori says. "The first few centimetres you're just turning on a switch for the regenerative braking, so this simulates the force as if you're pressing on a normal brake. Most people can't tell the difference."



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Powerful expresso

You can spend a lot of money on everything from autos to artwork, but this \$15,000 US espresso maker is in a whole other league. Arte Meccanica of Johannesburg, South Africa, has produced a limited number of exotic Espresso Veloce machines that are patterned after current V8 as well as retired V10 and V12 Formula one racing engines. Each model runs about 40 centimetres long and weighs about 20 kilograms. Along with dispensing the primary ingredient through the exhaust pipes, a separate alcohol tank can deliver a shot of your preferred fortified beverage, such as liqueur, grappa, etc. Check out espresso-veloce.com.



Back to black

That dull and faded look is a fact of life if you own an aging vehicle with unpainted plastic bumpers and other trim pieces. Meguiar's has the solution to brighten things up with its Ultimate Black Plastic Restorer. This VP-protective clear-coat product promises to refresh plastic as well as vinyl and rubber moldings so that they look as good as new. It will also dry practically on contact without streaking and should last for several weeks before additional applications are needed. A 14-ounce (0.4-litre) bottle of Ultimate Black Plastic Restorer costs about \$11 and can be purchased at most auto-parts and department stores, or at meguiarsdirect.com.



Traction attraction

For more low-speed traction over short distances in winter conditions, there's now an effective alternative to hard-to-install chains. A set of Zip Grip Go will provide extra traction to the driving wheels (alloy wheels with pass-through holes for the straps) and install just like plastic tie-downs by attaching through the wheel. Once set in place, each Zip Grip is self-locking so there's no extra tools other than a knife to trim off the excess length and to remove from the wheel when no longer needed (one-time-use only). A package of 12 Zip Grip Go traction aids retails for \$20 US is available at zipgripgo.com. Complete details and purchasing can be found at sportube.com.





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Pre-purchase inspection of S80 advised

Second gear.

2004-2006
Volvo S80

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

With an eye for Scandinavian style, sensibility and flagship luxury, the 2004 to 2006 generation of Volvo's S80 luxury sedan offered up selection, uniqueness and a confidence-inspiring motoring experience.

Solidly built and packed with a wide range of safety features and available AWD, it stood out in terms of all-season capability and peace-of-mind.

Feature content in the automaker's flagship sedan included heated seats with power adjustments and memory function, wood and leather trim, a sunroof, headlamp washers, dual-zone climate control, a Dolby ProLogic stereo system and auto-dimming rearview mirror.

Common issues

Though the S80 wasn't a massive sales superstar, some information from owners regarding reliabil-

ity is apparent in online forums.

Perhaps the most common among these relates to the S80's timing belt. Seems that the regular interval to change this part, as prescribed by Volvo, is too long, meaning the belt could snap ahead of its predicted useful service life, possibly causing catastrophic engine damage.

Ascertain the mileage on the timing belt in the S80 you're considering, and be sure to change it in advance of the intervals laid out in the owner's manual.

Be sure to feel the automatic transmission for any signs of slippage or harsh shifting, and be sure maintenance and fluid changes related to the transmission is up to date. Owners have reported transmission issues ranging from inconsistent performance to failure —though the limited number of complaints makes it hard to nail down the key cause.

Engine-related issues tend to centre around more minor parts, like hoses, sensors and modules. Note any check engine lights or leaks, and have a mechanic check for signs of vacuum leaks, which could cause problems with the turbocharger or other systems.

Other checks should include the suspension system, all interior electronics, all powertrain-related electronics and the stereo system. Finally, a mechanic should inspect the condition and integrity of the motor mounts during a pre-purchase inspection.

Due to the potentially complicated and pricey repairs a used S80 may require, buying a used model without a full going-over by a Volvo mechanic is strongly unadvised.



HANDOUT

What owners like



Typically, the S80's promise of fuel-efficiency, safety and driving confidence attracted shoppers to showrooms, with a spacious cabin, high-end interior design and a comfortable, luxurious ride sealing the deal. Exterior styling, the up-level stereo system and the seats are all highly rated, too.

What owners dislike



Interestingly, the most common complaint of most S80 owners is the cupholder design and placement.

Engine



Motivation came from one of several powertrain teams, including a 2.9 litre straight-six with 194 horsepower, front-drive and an automatic transmission. A 2.5 litre straight five-cylinder turbo engine with 5-speed automatic and AWD was available, creating 208 horsepower. Top-line models got 268 horsepower thanks to a turbo version of the big straight six

The verdict

Though information is somewhat inconclusive, shoppers are advised strongly against buying a model that hasn't been subjected to a pre-purchase inspection of the engine, transmission and electronics. A non-turbocharged, front-drive model will likely be the most reliable for the long term.

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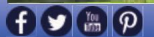
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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will hear something amazing today but can you believe it? If it sounds too good, check it out first. Commit too soon and you could find you've signed up for something that does you no good.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The only thing to fear is fear itself, so put your doubts behind you and plunge headlong into the unknown. That might not sound like a typically Taurus thing to do but, what have you got to lose?

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Someone in a position of power thinks you're pretty special and if you are smart you will play up to it and make it pay. Use your way with words to get a promotion.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If someone is difficult to get along with today, you should make it your business to find out why. Most likely it is nothing too serious and may even be something you are able to help with.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You may have no particular interest in the chores you are expected to do today, but do them anyway and make sure you do a good job. Come the weekend, you will be free again to pursue your own interests.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Family relationships are under favourable stars, so reach out to someone you love and let them know how you feel. Some say Virgos are cool, so now is your chance to prove them wrong.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Use your head today, especially when dealing with people who tend to get emotional over trivial matters. No matter how agitated they may get, you must stay focused on the facts.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You may have deep feelings about a situation but you must not let emotions get in the way of what needs to be done. Yes, of course, love makes the world go around but it needs a dash of common sense too.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If a tough decision is called for, you must make it and live with the consequences. The planets warn the worst possible thing you can do is to hedge your bets. Come down on one side of the fence or the other.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Act rationally today, even if it gets you a rep as someone who is all head and no heart. Experience has taught you that people who follow only their emotions usually end up with nothing worth having.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Don't make any hasty decisions today. You may believe you know all the facts but the planets warn there is one little thing you have overlooked — and that one little thing could have very big consequences.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Someone who has a lot more experience than you could be of help today, but you need to remember that they can't read your mind. Spell things out for them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

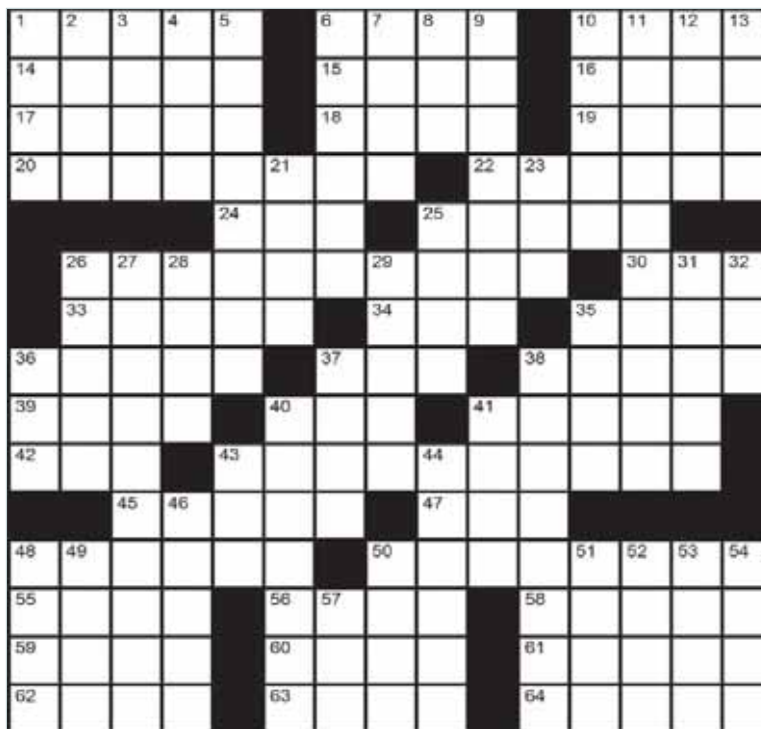
Across

1. Show about Mary, Queen of Scots on which Megan Follows plays Queen Catherine
6. Denied club entry because of it, e.g.:

10. Carpentry wedge
14. Gluck opera: _____ Euridice
15. Consequently
16. "I thought we _____ deal?"
17. Mr. Eastwood
18. Linguist Mr. Chomsky

19. Jealousy
20. Edmonton-born actress Jill
22. Appearances
24. Scrooge's seasonal sentiment
25. Confusion-causing mess
26. Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the _____
30. Pressure meas.
33. Greek Myth: Crete's bronze guardian
34. Ancient Egypt: Sun god's namesakes

35. Look over
36. Mike Myers character
37. _____ the Record Man
38. Cook's creations
39. Prefix meaning 'Trillion'
40. Illinois city, for short



41. Rings loudly
42. Jimmy
43. Charlie the _____ (Creature on Prime Minister Harper's annual Christmas card)
45. Ms. Jessica Parker
47. Small, small-ly
48. Bruce of "Dragons' Den"

50. Brian _____, Canadian sportscaster
55. _____ monde (High society)
56. Sandwich time
58. Provide
59. "_____ way, shape or form!"
60. Util. bill
61. Serviceable

62. Subtraction opp.
63. Mascara spot
64. Routines
Down
1. Mr. Voisine
2. Perry Mason creator, _____ Stanley Gardner
3. "_____ doubt..."
4. West Coast painter,

Robert _____
5. Rachel McAdams/Ryan Gosling movie, "The _____" (2004)
6. Mayor of Calgary, Naheed _____
7. '_____ Plata' (Montana's state motto)
8. Grocery store chain
9. Pizza chain

10. Bundle
11. Upon answering the phone, hearing 'click': 2 wds.
12. '50s song: "If I Knew You Were Comin' _____ Baked a Cake"
13. "Ain't That the Truth" by Canadian rocker Matt _____
21. Back talk
23. Earth inhabitant
25. Thailand, formerly
26. Survey selection
27. Ontario town on Georgian Bay: 2 wds.
28. Entreaty
29. Public transport
31. Dance style
32. Advantages
35. Sigil
36. '90s gr.
37. _____Tzu (Cute dog)
38. Food Labels: Best Before... = _____ Avant...
40. Station
41. _____ and Don, The Everly Brothers
43. _____Magnon
44. Settle the deal
46. Country great Hoyt
48. Christmastime 'pet'
49. Author Ayn
50. Troubles
51. Keen on
52. Mine entrance
53. Donkey/horse
54. Spots
57. 'Pay' suffix

Yesterday's Crossword

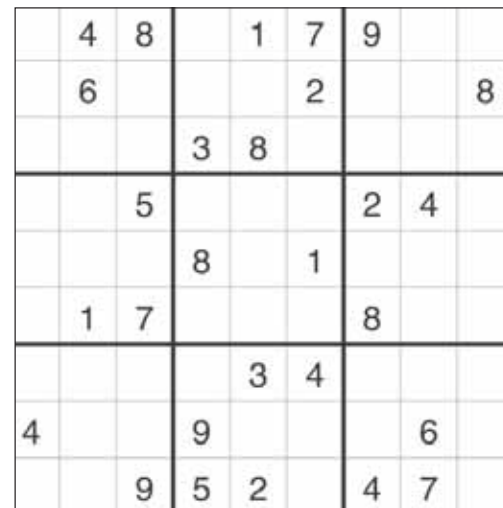


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

4°/-3°
Showers
40%

Thursday

3°/1°
Rain or snow showers
40%

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